## STARS STRIPES.

'JAG' works Iraq war into its plot



Iraqi journalist, son gunned down by militants



BC streak comes to an end in South Bend

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

# Army pushes for fixed rest periods for deployed troops

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, to start in '07 Page 8



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#### Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### World

French workweek: French lawmakers voted Wednesday to let workers stay on the job as many as 13 hours longer each week, a preliminary move that critics say will dismantle the na-

tion's legally mandated 35-hour work week. In a first reading, the lower house of parliament voted 370-180 to approve a proposal allowing private sector employees to work up to 48 hours each week — the European Union limit

The measure now goes to the Senate for debate next month.

Madrid train bombings: A judge sent two more Moroccans to jail Wednesday on provisional charges of collaborating with a terrorist group in connection with the deadly Madrid train bombings last year, a court official said.

Rachid Mohamed Kaddur and Rachid Bendouda had been questioned first by National Court Judge Juan Del Olmo on Monday evening, but the judge had extended their detention order another 48 hours until police gathered more information about them.

Mohamed Kaddur, a 35-year-old Spaniard, was arrested Thursday night in Melilla, one of two Spanish enclaves on the coast of Morocco. Bendouda was arrested Wednesday in the Madrid neighborhood of Lavapies. Both are believed to have met with key bombing suspect Abdemnabi Kounjaa the day before the attacks.

Disgraced Pakistani scientist: Pakistani Wednesday the case of disgraced nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan was still open but it has received no new evidence to suggest that his black market network had sold technology to more countries than earlier thought.

Last February, President Gen. Pervez. Musharraf pardoned Khan after he confessed to supplying sensitive technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. But this week Time magazine reported that U.S. officials also were investigating whether the scientist's network might have supplied Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

Pakistan denies there was any official involvement in Khan's illegal nuclear trading, which earned the scientist a fortune.

British sub in Gibraltar: A British nuclear submarine which angered Spain when it docked at Gibraltar for repairs left the disputed colony Wednesday as promised, a British military official based in Gibraltar said.

The HMS Sceptre arrived in Gibraltar last Thursday for repairs to what Britain called a faulty diesel generator.

Spain lodged a diplomatic protest with Britain, urging it not to send any more nuclear subs to Gibraltar.

Opium poppy crop: Claims that planes sprayed opium poppy fields in southern Afghanistan are unfounded, the government said Wednesday, heading off a fresh row over how to tackle the world's largest illegal drug industry.

Investigators sent to Helmand province after farmers in four villages alleged last week that mystery planes dusted their fields established that plant disease, not herbicides, was to blame, the Interior Ministry



Tsunami relief: An Acehnese girl looks on Wednesday as residents search for used clothes donated by an aid agency on a beach in the tsunami-ravaged town of Calang, Aceh province. Indonesia said 640 more bodies had been pulled from the rubble in the province hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami, raising the country's confirmed death toll to 116,396.

said.

The claim was "propaganda" aimed at driving a wedge between local communities, the government and its international donors, he said.

#### Military

Air Force Academy alcohol abuse: Alcohol offenses at the Air Force Academy jumped 57 percent last semester, largely because of an incident in which 15 underage cadets were drinking at a retreat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Gazette of Colorado Springs, citing academy officials, said there were 74 alcohol offenses between June and December, compared with 47 in the same period in 2003

Alcohol is a crucial issue at the school near Colorado Springs: Forty percent of sexual assaults in which two cadets were einvolved in the past 10 years also involved drinking, according to a 2003 Air Force investigation.

U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe: A private arms control group says the United States still deploys 480 nuclear weapons in Europe, more than twice what military analysts previously estimated. It said there was no justification for such stockpiles since the Soviet threat no longer exits.

The report by the Natural Resources Defense Council said the weapons are stored at eight bases in six countries — Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Turkey and the Netherlands

#### States

Jammed N.H. telephone lines: The former head of a Republican consulting group was sentenced Tuesday to five months in jail for jamming Democratic telephone lines in several New Hampshire cit-

ies during the 2002 election.
Allen Raymond, 37, who was president of

the Alexandria, Va.-based GOP Marketplace LLC at the time, did not comment as he left the U.S. District Court sentencing. He also was fined \$15,600. He had pleaded guilty in June.

Court papers say Raymond and co-conspirators plotted to jam Democratic lines that voters could call for rides to the polls in Manchester, Nashua, Rochester and Clare-

Presidential public financing: Two election officials on Wednesday renewed a proposal to overhaul the Watergate-era presidential public mancing system, this time suggesting that candidates who take taxpayer money for the primaries get to spend at the record levels President Bush and rival

John Kerry did during last year's race.

The first step for Congress is deciding whether the system should be maintained or abolished, Federal Election Commission Chairman Scott Thomas and Vice Chairman Michael Toner wrote in a letter to congressional leaders. If it keeps public financing for the presidential race, the program should be substantially changed to make it more attractive to candidates, they said.

#### War on terrorism

Terror group leader's death: The alleged ringleader of a terror group accused of plotting to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces has died of heart failure while in prison, an Interior Ministry official said Wednesday.

Amer Khlaif al-Enezi, believed to be in

his 30s, had trouble breathing while in prison and was moved the Kuwait's Armed Forces Hospital, where he died late Tuesday, according to the official and the state-owned Kuwait News Agency.

Photo and stories from wire services

#### Correction

In a Feb. 9 story about a federal court ruling, The Associated Press erroneously reported that a judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Army's right to force soldiers to serve past the dates of their enlistments. Instead, the judge rejected Spc. David Quall's request for a preliminary injunction that would have removed him from active duty. He and seven other soldiers had filed suit challenging their active-duty extensions. That remains before the court.

#### Clarification

A headline with Wednesday's story about a transfer of authority in Iraq should have said that the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Aviation Brigade has turned over its aircraft support mission to the 42nd Infantry Division. Comics every day in Stars and Stripes

## Gunmen kill Iraqi journalist, son U.S. deaths in Iraq

#### Officials say election results to be delayed

BY MARIAM FAM The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Amid spiraling postelection violence, gunmen killed an Iraqi journalist working for a U.S.-funded TV station and his 3-year-old son as they left their home Wednes day in the southern city of Basra, an official said Two U.S. soldiers were reported slain in separate attacks.

In Basra, Abdul Hussein Khazal al-Basri, the correspondent of Al-Hurra TV station and his son were both killed in the city's Magal area, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad. said Nazim al Moussawi, a spokesman for the local government administration.

Launched in February 2004, Al-Hurra, or "The Free," was tailored for Arab audiences to compete with other regional stations like Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. President Bush said it was created to "cut through the hateful propaganda that fills the airwayes in the Muslim world," but some clerics have denounced the TV station for broadcasting its own brand of propaganda.

Al-Basri also was a member of the political office of the Islamic Dawa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a newspaper in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city. He also headed the press office at Basra City Council, al-Moussawi said.

Also Wednesday, Iraqi officials delayed the announcement of final results from landmark national elections because they said the election commission must recount votes from about 300 ballot boxes

An undetermined number of other hallots were declared invalid because of alleged tam-pering, officials said. The ballots were inside 40 boxes and another 250 bags that were deliv ered to the central counting facility in Baghdad, he said.

Final results from the Jan. 30 balloting were to be announced Thursday. But spokesman Farid Ayar said the deadline would slip due to the need for a recount.

"We don't know when this will finish," he said. "This will lead to a little postponement in announcing the results.

Ayar would not say where the 300 ballot boxes came from.

Commission official Adel al-Lami said the ballots in the 40 boxes and 250 bags would not be counted because they appeared to have been stuffed inside them or, in some cases, improperly folded.

Some of the boxes were not those approved



Mourners ride with the coffin of Abdul Hussein al-Basri, correspondent for the U.S.-funded Al-Hurra television station, and his son, in the southern city of Basra in Iraq on Wednesday, after the two were killed by gunmen in the Magal area of the city.

by the commission, and others were improperly sealed, he said.

Commission officials have previously said some ballot boxes were stolen by armed groups and returned to polling stations. Al-Lami said bribes were offered to staffers if they would accept the boxes, which he said came from different parts of Iraq.

No new partial results have been released since Monday for the voting for the 275-member National Assembly, 18 provincial councils and a regional parliament for the Kurdish self-governing region in the north.

Partial results released Monday showed a coalition of Kurdish parties in second place.

The ticket of interim Prime Minister Avad Allawi, a secular Shiite, is in third place among the 111 candidate lists. A Shiite-dominated ticket endorsed by Iraq's most influen-tial Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, led with about half the votes, followed by the coalition of Kurdish parties.

If that reflects the final lineup, it appears unlikely that Allawi could emerge as a compromise choice for prime minister when the new assembly convenes by early March.

A military statement said one U.S. soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at a logistical support area in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The second soldier was shot and killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul, the IIS command said

In Iraq's oil-rich north, saboteurs set off explosives Wednesday at a gas pipeline in Fatha district, 15 miles north of Beiji, setting it on

One policeman was injured as workers put out the blaze, which was expected to affect the production of electrical power, police said. Officials did not say how long it would take to repair. In Rome, the newspaper that employs an

Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq said Wednesday it has indications she is alive and that intelligence officials have established indirect contact with the kidnappers.

Giuliana Sgrena, a reporter for communist daily Il Manifesto, was abducted by gunmen Friday outside Baghdad University Conflicting claims have appeared on Islam-

ic militant Web sites: One said she had been killed, while another said she would be released soon

## in Iraq

By The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005, at least 1,450 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,107 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense De-partment said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11: Bulgaria, seven: Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,312 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 998 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported. The latest identifications re-

ported by the military:

Army Spc. Jeremy O. All-mon, 22, Cleburne, Texas; died Sunday in Taji, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regi-ment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas

■ Army Staff Sgt. Steven G. Bayow, 42, Colonia, Yap land, Federated States of Mi-cronesia; died Friday in Bayji, Irag, when an explosive hit his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Army Sgt. Daniel Torres, 23, Fort Worth, Texas; died Friday in Bayjii, Iraq, when an explosive hit his vehicle; as-signed to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

## Trials for some of Saddam's regime to begin soon

By JASON KEYSER The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Trials for some of Saddam Hussein's key henchmen are set to begin in several weeks before an Iraqi tribunal that could hand down sentences of death by hanging or firing squad, a Western legal expert familian with the process said Wednesday.

Investigative judges are close to handing over lengthy dossiers of affidavits, witness statements and other documents to a five-judge chamber that will run the trials, the legal expert told reporters in Baghdad on condition of ano-

He would not say which of Saddam's 11 lieutenants are likely to face the Iraqi Special Tribunal first, and it wasn't clear if the former dictator himself would be among the first to be tried.

In December, investigative judges summoned Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as Chemical Ali for his role in poison gas attacks against Iraq's Kurdish mi-nority, and former Defense Minister Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad to appear before them in closed-door preliminary

The tribunal, which is run according to Iraqi laws on criminal procedure, could sentence some of those found guilty to die by hanging or firing squad.

"Obviously the death penalty is available. Whether or not every case is a death penalty case, I doubt it," the expert said.

Saddam was captured in northern Iraq in December 2003, and others have been in custody for nearly two years. U.S. military officials transferred the 12 defendants to Iraqi custody in June with the handover of sovereignty. They've been held at an undisclosed location believed to be near Baghdad International Airport, west of the capital.

In July, a judge told the group they were being investiated for crimes committed under the former regime. In Saddam's case, he was informed that court officials were investigating him in the killings of rival politicians, the gassing of the Kurds in 1988, invading Kuwait in 1990 and brutally suppressing Kurdish and Shiite uprisings in 1991

Formal charges won't come until the investigating judges refer the cases to the trial chamber. The first dossiers are expected to be delivered to trial judges and formal proceedings are to begin within several weeks, the legal expert said

Some of the evidence that's to be presented was recovered from about a dozen mass graves, he said. He refused to say where the graves were located.

All the defendants have met with their lawyers, some of whom had to be appointed by the Iraqi bar association be-cause others refused to take the cases, he said. Saddam has a team of 10 Iraqi lawyers and several dozen others from abroad.

Video cameras and reporters will be allowed into the courtroom, and there will be a limited number of seats for the public in a viewing gallery behind bulletproof glass.

Unlike the legal system in the United States, the Iraqi tribunal will have no jury and the verdicts and sentencing will be handed down through a majority decision of the five-judge panel.

The court will hear from victims, witnesses, a state pros ecutor, defense witnesses and in some cases the defendants themselves. Some of the defendants will likely face more than one trial, as multiple crimes are normally brought to trial separately under Iraqi law.

Defendants have the right to appeal verdicts to a nine-judge appellate chamber.

## **British soldier cleared of 1 count of abuse**

BY MATT SURMAN The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany - A judge hearing the case of three British soldiers accused of abusing detained Iraqis ordered jurors on Wednesday to acquit one of the suspects on a charge of pretending to kick a prisoner

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley still faces two charges of abuse, and Judge Michael Hunter refused to allow reporters to publish more details of the decision.

"Although we would wish to tell you ... for legal reasons we can't give a reason at this stage and must ask you to give a verdict of not guilty," Hunter told the jury.

Cooley, 25, is one of three members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers standing trial on this British base in Germany on charges that they abused Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May

Cooley also is charged with hoisting a detainee on a forklift and driving it, and with simulating a punch against another detainee, seen in a photograph. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Another soldier, Cpl. Daniel

ing and abetting abuse and failing to report it. He has denied the

Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, already has pleaded guilty to one count of battery after prosecutors charged he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground. Another charge of forcing an Iraqi to strip for simulating sex acts was dropped last week.

Taking the stand Wednesday, Kenvon described the aggressive attitude that existed at the camp before he arrived. He said a security guard at the camp, Sgt. Maj. Ri-chard Jackson, briefed him, telling him: "'If we capture anyone, we just give them a kick.'"

Kenyon also told the court that the soldiers were unclear about their role in Iraq following the end of major combat

The trial revolves around photos taken by a soldier who was ar-rested in England after bringing the film to be developed. The pictures provoked widespread dismay in Britain after they were published in newspapers, leading to uncomfortable comparisons with the scandal over abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad



This courtroom drawing shows British soldiers Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, left, and Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, right, in the courtroom of the British Court Center in Osnabrueck, northern Germany. A judge on Wednesday ordered Cooley cleared of a charge of simulating kicking an Iraqi prisoner, but ordered that the legal reasons could be not be reported. Cooley still faces two charges of abuse.



A Marine from 1st Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment takes a picture of an Iraqi during a patrol in the heavily guarded city of Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday. The troops keep the mugshots in case of future troubles.

#### 3 months after U.S. offensive. Fallujah has a different face

FALLUJAH, Irag - Iragis line up in straggling columns, waiting to pass through harhed-wire checkpoints that ring this former insurgent stronghold left battered by intense fighting three months ago. Men stand in one, women and children in another. The few cars form

They are returning to a virtually empty city where the 1st Marine Division's rumbling tanks and patrolling riflemen are out in force making sure the guerrillas don't come back

American officers say only about a tenth of the 250,000 residents have returned since fleeing the weeklong battle in November that drove out insurgents who had controlled the predominantly Sunni Muslim city

Signs scrawled on some houses proclaim "Family leaves here" or "Family in the home," their inexpert English alerting the Marines that families have moved back in.

Most buildings also have been marked by the Marines with map grid numbers and symbols denoting whether they have been

Marines handed out military rations for weeks after the battle to elp the few families in the city get by, but that stopped after the Jan. 30 national election. The heavily armed Marines do still hand out soccer balls and candy to children.

Checkpoints across Fallujah and around its edges control the flow of the city's people. Marines using some damaged buildings abandoned by families.

There is little activity on the streets. Marines patrol constantly. The Marines pay particular attention to young men who seem not to want to be noticed, pulling them aside to make quick mugshots in case of future troubles.

#### Documentary to re-create alleged torture techniques used at Gitmo

BY THOMAS WAGNER The Associated Press

LONDON - A British television station plans to show a documentary that re-creates some of the torture techniques allegedly used at the Guantanamo Bay pris on camp by trying them out on vol-

"The Guantanamo Guidebook" show was made by the Lon-don-based production company 20-20, using declassified docu-ments about the U.S. camp, Yad Luthra, a spokesman for Channel 4 in London, said Wednesday.

The producers of the show claim to have re-created some of the milder forms of torture used at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba. The methods used on the seven

volunteers in the one-hour docu-

mentary included religious and sexual humiliation, forced nudity, sleep deprivation and extreme temperatures. Luthra said in an in-

The U.S. government has denied using torture at the camp in Cuba, where many detainees are held without charge.

But some Guantanamo detainees have alleged that they were wrongly imprisoned after repeated abuse by U.S. troops in Afghani-stan and Pakistan, including beatings with chains, electric shock and sodomy.

Tom Wilner, a lawyer for 11 Kuwaiti prisoners there, recently told The Associated Press that most of his clients falsely confessed to be-longing to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida ter-ror network as a way to stop the

A broadcast date for "The Guantanamo Guidebook" has not been announced, but Luthra said it is one of four documentaries that Channel 4 plans to show in a one-week period in the next month dealing with the issue of torture.

The others include a documentary by Clive Stafford Smith, the first British lawyer allowed into Guantanamo, that explores the issue of whether torture ever works when used on alleged terrorism suspects.

Another film by former BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan is about how countries such as the United States allegedly take terrorist suspects to a country other than America or their homeland to tor-

The fourth Channel 4 documentary is about alleged torture in U.S. penitentiaries.

#### Indiana Guardsman charged with Iraq murder

EVANSVILLE Indiana - An Indiana National Guardsman who received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Iraq has been charged in the death of an Iraqi citizen, the Army said.

The Iraqi died at the same time Cpl. Dustin

Berg, 21, was wounded, the military said. Berg also faces charges of false swearing and the wearing of an unauthorized award.

A hearing was scheduled Thursday at Fort Knox, Ky., to determine whether the case will proceed to a court-martial.

The Iraqi died in November 2003 near Nippur, south of Baghdad, said Gini Sinclair, a Fort Knox public affairs officer, on Tuesday. She declined to release further details about the case.

Berg's mother was quoted in The Herald news-

paper of Jasper, Ind., on Nov. 24, 2003, as saying her son, of Ferdinand, Ind., had been shot the day before in the abdomen and had undergone minor

Reached at her home Tuesday by The Associated Press, Mary Lee Berg would not comment, saying only that her son had returned to duty in Iraq

after the shooting.

Berg received a Purple Heart during a ceremony Feb. 19, 2004, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The Indiana National Guard on Tuesday would not release the citation describing why the Purple Heart was awarded.

Berg was a member of the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, based in Jasper, Ind., when it mobilized in January 2003 for the Iraq war and returned home in February 2004. He has since been

put on active duty and assigned to Fort Knox

## **Troops welcome increased death benefits**

Stars and Strines

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WIL-SON, Iraq - American soldiers in Iraq say they welcome the proposals to nearly dou ble some death benefits.

Increases are "long overdue" for survivors' benefits such as the death gratuity, "because \$12,000 barely covers the cost of a funeral," said 2nd Lt. Kenneth Rivard, 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat from the Tennessee National Guard

The Department of Defense is proposing to raise the death gratuity to \$100,000 from \$12,420 currently, and the maximum life insurance caps to \$400,000 under Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, from \$250,000. The DOD would pay for the first \$150,000 in life insurance for all troops in combat zones.

One point of debate separating defense officials from Congress and military leaders is who should be eligible

Officials from all four services testified in Congress earlier this month that they

#### Many say only those in combat zones should be eligible for highest payout

would prefer to see death benefits extended to all active-duty personnel and reserve forces, not just those in war zones

Death benefits are a hot button issue Rush Limbaugh talks a lot about how soldiers get a fraction of what a civilian would receive" in death benefits, said Rivard, 32, a married information technology employee in Nashville, Tenn., in civilian life

The conservative talk-show host has criticized payouts to the families of firefighters and civilians killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which averaged \$1 million, compared to the small amount paid to the survivors of soldiers. Marines, airmen and sailors killed in Iraq and Afghanistan

But in an informal poll of soldiers at FOB Wilson, just slightly more than half said they believe only those in combat zones should be eligible for the increased death



The proposed death benefits should be made available mainly to soldiers in combat zones, said Hammons, 44, from Jackson, Tenn. Only select personnel outside war zones, such as submariners and special operations troops "who undergo very, very hazardous training," should be included, Hammons said.

al Guard

killed increase evno.

nentially when you

step into a combat

zone, said Sgt. Roy

Scott Hammons, with

Combat Team, from

the Tennessee Nation-

The proposed death benefit increases

are projected to cost about \$459 million the first year, then \$280 million in 2006, with retroactive payouts to the beneficiaries of soldiers killed on or after Oct. 7, 2001.

It remains to be seen how many soldiers would take advantage of the proposed increases

Only about 9 percent of newly enlisted soldiers are married, according to Army data. However, that figure increases to 42

percent by the end of the first enlistment. Rivard encourages his soldiers with dependents to buy the maximum coverage, which costs about \$16 a month for the current \$250,000 in coverage, he said. Yet only slightly more than half of the 3-278th RCT soldiers interviewed at FOB Wilson said they're paying for the maximum SGLI cov-

One of those with maximum coverage is Cpl. Michael Henley, 28, who is single.

Just because he has no children doesn't mean he doesn't have any obligations.

"If something happens to me, it'll put my goddaughter through college," Henley said.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

#### Army now issuing new camo uniforms

The Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. - Army soldiers are being issued new fatigues with easy-to-use Velcro openings and a redesigned camouflage pattern that can help conceal them as they move rapidly from desert to forest to city in places like Baghdad

"It might give you the extra second you need, save your life maybe," Sgt. Marcio Soares said Tuesday after trying on the new all-in-one camouflage uniform that is the first major redesign in Army fatigues since 1983.

Soares' unit, the Georgia Na-tional Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade, is the first to be issued the new fatigues as part of a \$3.4 billion Army-wide makeover being phased in over the next three years.

The uniform will replace the standard forest camouflage -green, brown and black - and the desert camouflage - tan, brown and grey - now used by

U.S. troops in Iraq. Twenty-two changes Twenty-two changes were made to the uniforms, most notably the new camouflage pattern

Instead of bold jigsaw swatches of colors, the new camouflage pattern uses muted shades of desert brown, urban gray and foliage green broken into one-centimeter segments. Black was eliminated completely because it catches the eye too easily.

The resulting camouflage

similar to a pattern the Marines adopted two years ago — con-ceals soldiers in forest, desert or urban battlegrounds, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the uniform's lead designer.

#### First new combat fatigues in 22 years

The first major redesign in Army fatigues is being phased in over the next three years. The \$3.4 billion makeover will replace the standard forest and desert camouflage with a new pattern as well as many other comfort and tactical improvements.



"In Baghdad, you can go from the desert to vegetation to the city in 10 minutes," Myhre said.

Other changes were prompted by complaints from soldiers in the field. Jacket and pocket buttons, which can snag on nets and other gear, have been replaced with zippers and Velcro

Pockets at the jacket's waistline were moved to the shoulders. where soldiers can reach them while wearing body armor. And the uniforms have a looser fit, with more room to wear layers underneath

Rank, unit and name patches attach with Velcro rather than being sewn on. Infrared-reflecting squares on the shoulders make friendly troops easier to identify while using night-vision

"The only problem I have with the uniform is, once the soldiers put it on, they don't want to take it off," said Brig. Gen. Stewart Rode-heaver, commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade, which has 4,000 reservists training at Fort Stewart to go off to Iraq in May

Col. John Norwood, the Army's project manager for soldier equipnent, said the new uniforms will be issued in coming months to units being sent to Iraq. New soldiers entering basic training will be issued them by October, and all Army troops will be required to wear them by April 2008.

#### Pain, loss linger after Iraqi informant killed

IRBIL, Iraq - Shihab Khaled Anwar cannot bear to think of his father, beheaded in Iraq for allegedly being an informant for Amer-

"If I think of him, I picture his head and I won't be able to eep," the 10-year-old boy said.
The severed head was dumped

on the pavement near his home in the northern city of Mosul a day after his father, Khaled Ibrahim, 29, was abducted by gunmen on his way to buy bread

Shihab, too young to grasp the motives behind such brutality, refers to his father's killers as "burglars." The adults in the family have a different theory: he was tipping off the Americans about

Now the family feels aban-doned by America, for whom Ibrahim sacrificed his life.

The U.S. military in Iraq never comments on its network of informants, past or present. But the beheading of Ibrahim indicates his death was the work of Iraqi insurgents, who have made decapitation the gruesome signature of their campaign against foreigners and Iraqi collaborators, often filming the act and distributing it on According to his wife, Ibrahim

started off as a friend to Americans. They would visit the cou-ple's home, and the Ibrahims would offer them food and drink At some point the Americans, whom Mrs. Ibrahim did not identifv. asked him to work for them.

Ibrahim was certainly qualified to help the Americans. He knew Mosul well and he was a Kurd. Kurds were persecuted under Saddam Hussein and sunnorted the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled his regime.

From that point on, Ibrahim had regular contacts with Ameri cans, said his wife, an Arab, Every week or two he went to

see the Americans," she said. "He identified people who put explosives, the terrorists. He liked the Americans. He was against the situation.

She said the night before his death Ibrahim told her he sensed he was being watched. It was no surprise — he had received many threats from Islamic extremists for collaborating with the Ameri-

nis. Ibrahim's wife was pregnant at the time of his death. On Dec. 28, she gave hirth to a fifth son

"The Americans should help us. He died because of them," said Khaled's widow. "I want my children to have normal lives when they grow up."

#### 1st ID transferring authority in Iraq to 42nd ID

The 1st Infantry Division has announced plans to transfer authority over its sector of Iraq next week to the 42nd Infantry Division Maj. Gen. John Batiste will turn over command of his Tikrit-based headquarters to Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto in a ceremo-ny at 1 p.m. Monday. The name of the command will change from Task Force Danger to Task Force Liberty.

The 42nd ID is part of the New York Army National Guard and is the first National Guard division activated for overseas service since the Korean War.

Two veteran brigade combat teams from the 3rd Infantry Divi-sion, a regular Army unit based in Fort Stewart, Ga., and many National Guard and reserve units, will bolster the Rainbow Division's headquarters staff.

From staff reports

## **41st Transportation Company preparing** to head back to Iraq

#### Vilseck soldiers send signature vehicles on their way to Kuwait

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Strines

VILSECK, Germany - In a sign that the 41st Transportation Com-pany (Palletized Load System) is fast approaching its second year-long deployment downrange, members of the unit sent the company's signature vehicles on the first leg of their journey to Iraq on Wednes-day at the Vilseck military rail-head.

Though the approximately 140 soldiers of the 41st won't leave Germany for several more weeks, the unit needed to get its 10-wheeled cargo trucks on the way so it can pick them up in Kuwait in March

Once in the region, the unit will spend another year shuttling sup-plies around Iraq in a mission troops said they are more pre pared to execute safely the second

"We had to improve our driving technique" after the first time out, said Sgt. J.P. Cardona, a PLS driv-

er. The convoy drivers were forced to come up with methods on the fly to avoid hazards posed by Iraqi insurgents in the last deployment learning on the job how to maneu-ver a successful convoy, he said.

"This time around, we've got a hard play book," Cardona said.

Before returning from its first deployment a year ago in March 2004, the 41st drove nearly a million miles to bases all around Iraq hauling everything from live am-munition to soccer balls for Iraqi children said the company's rear detachment commander, 1st Sgt. Stacy Pennington.

While on the road, the convoys were attacked a number of times with makeshift bombs - which the military calls improvised explosive devices, Cardona said.

The unit did not suffer any battle iniuries or deaths on the initial de-

"We had to change out a couple of tires," he said, adding, "That's close enough for me."

This time out, the soldiers are much better versed in identifying potential IEDs, said Lt. Col. Bruce Ferri from the 18th Corps Support Battalion, a parent unit of the 41st.

Since coming back, the unit has also "focused a lot of our training toward convoy survivability, sol-dier survivability," and the situation on the ground in Iraq is much more "steady-state" than in the last deployment. That allows the



Above: Workers at the Vilseck military railhead position the back chassis of a Palletized Load System truck on a rail car Wednesday as the specialized vehicles of the 41st Transportation Company were sent on the first leg of their journey to Iraq. The 41st soldiers will be reuinted with their vehicles in Kuwait in March. Below: One of the trucks drops off some supplies to be sent with a trainload of the vehicles. The specialized cargo trucks can load and unload their own containers in less than a minute.

41st to make shorter cargo runs on an improved hub-and-spoke supply system, he said.

In 2003 and early 2004, the 41st was driving up to 700 miles at a stretch to deliver supplies in their PLS trucks, he said. The slow, bulky vehicles can lift containers onto their own beds without the aid of a forklift or crane, and can also transport pallets of supplies.

The cabs of the trucks do have rmor, said a spokesman for 3rd Corps Support Command, the logistics support unit for the 41st, but they will be re-evaluated when they reach Kuwait to see if it meets new Army standards before they are sent into Iraq.

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## With GIs headed home, 1st ID moms 'adopt' Marines

BY STEVE LIEWER Stare and Strings

Some moms of 1st Infantry Division soldiers have adopted some new kids

With their sons and daughters due home from Iraq any day now, the e-mail support group of about 70 Big Red One mothers who call themselves the "Family of One" wanted to keep supporting troops in the Middle East. They had formed last year through a 1st ID Web site and boosted not only each other, but their soldiers through a hard one-year tour in Irag

Enter the Marines

On Jan. 17, Barbara Holman and Donna Cranston, two 1st ID mothers who volunteer frequently at the United Service Organizations lounge in Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, were greeting troops there headed to and returning from Iraq.

A group of 120 Iraq-bound Marines from the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4, an EA-6 Prowler squadron from the 2nd Marine Air Wing in Cherry Point, N.C., got stuck overnight when their plane didn't arrive.

Holman and Cranston felt badly that the Marines were con-



bought enough beer for each Marine to drink one in his hotel room, then got up the next morning to give them gifts and a goodbye hug before their early depar-

"I was flabbergasted with the

outpouring of support," said Sgt. fined to their hotel for the Maj. Terry Kraker, the squadron's senior enlisted Marine, via last e-mail from their duty post at Al night in the Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"I have been in the Marine Corps for over 27 years and have been to a lot of places. I have never received this kind of support on my way out the door.

The women gave Kraker a Big Red One patch to keep on his desk. And they agreed to "adopt" the squadron, with one family sending care packages and notes of encouragement to each of its 60 single Marines.

Holman said it took little time

to find families to adopt the Marines from among the Family of One e-mail group, her friends and co-workers in Texas.

"The spirit is contagious," Holman said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "Our Family of One is proud to 'defect' from supporting our returning 1st ID and move on to the Marines.

"These Americans are one of the reasons we are going to Iraq, Kraker said. "Our motto is 'Sem-per Fidelis,' meaning 'Always faithful,' and we will do just that. We are now a part of the Family of One.

#### Pentagon Channel on DISH Network

EchoStar Communications Corporation and its DISH Network satellite television service are now offering the Pentagon Channel, the Defense Department's news and information network for and about the military

The Pentagon Channel, launched in 2004, will be pro vided to customers at no additional cost, but a second satellite dish may be required. DISH Network customers will see Department of De-

fense news with hourly updates, broadcasts of each service's flagship television news magazine programs and Department of Defense news briefings from the Pentagon and around the world.

In addition to programming for the 1.4 million ac-

ture the next morning. tive-duty servicemembers, the Pentagon Channel will provide the 1.2 million Guardsmen and reservists and 650,000 civilian DOD employees more timely access to

military information and news. The DISH network is accessible from anywhere in the

United States

#### **Outages during AFN upgrades**

American Forces Network viewers will see a "momentary loss of service" as AFN upgrades its encoder hardware and software at the AFN Broadcast Center during the week of Feb. 21, the network announced Tuesday.

The outages will last for "a couple of seconds," said Jerry Shorter, chief of broadcast engineering at the cen-

ter. Shorter also said that they will try to take advantage of the time differences with the audience and schedule any work when "it'll have the least impact, with the fewest people watching.'

Scientific-Atlanta will first upgrade the PowerVu encoder hardware that serves the Pacific region. A day or two later, it will upgrade the system that services the Atlantic region

Audiences overseas will lose the AFN signal as the company switches to the upgraded system on each AFN chan-

This scheduled maintenance is not related to the recent satellite outage experienced by AFN customers in the Far East

## Official: U.S., China discuss hot line Investors

#### Communication sought during incidents

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - Nearly four years after a U.S. Navy spy plane was intercepted off China, the two nations are working on an agreement that would use a hot line between its defense departments, and clarify a "rules of the road" when aircraft or ships encounter each other.

If successful, the two-pronged effort would allow direct communication between the respective tops and bottoms of the two chains of com-mand and, U.S. officials hope, dif-

fuse future flashpoints.
Richard Lawless, the Pentagon
chief of Asian affairs, led a team that met with Chinese brass in Beijing last week to discuss the proposals, ac-cording to a senior defense official, who spoke only on condition of ano-

U.S. leaders have raised the two ideas repeatedly in recent years, to

"We've been attempting to break e impasse," said the official. A the impasse, spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington declined to comment

on the negotiations. "If an agreement like this had been in place, then at least there would have been an avenue to talk during and after the spy plane inci-dent], but that avenue doesn't exit, even to this day," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Greg

"We'll never know what the end result might have been, but it certainly would have been nice to have some sort of protocol in place for the two pilots to talk to each other," Hicks. And after the fact, had a hot line existed, it "would have made a huge difference" in getting the crew and aircraft released

Lawless' visit follows a trip to China by Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Myers a year ago and Pacific Command's chief Adm. Thomas Fargo's visit in July as relations between the two militaries have thawed since the EP-3 was forced down in April 2001

Defense Secretary Donald Rums feld may soon add the weight of his office, as well. Rumsfeld "has agreed in principal" to a trip to nina sometime this year, said the official [see story at right]

#### Lost in translation

The United States and China signed the Military Maritime Consultation Agreement in 1998, designed to provide clear instructions to pilots and warship captains when they meet their counterparts in interna-

tional airspace and waters.

The details that were to follow how to exchange calls signs and fre quencies, even the use of hand and

arm signals — never materialized.

The Chinese, said the official. ave insisted on first agreeing to what constitutes international wa-ters and airspace. The Chinese claim 200 miles off their coastlines, while international norms limit territorial claims to 12 miles

"That's a huge issue for them. I'd be really surprised, bordering on stunned, if they were willing to separate that from the discussions," said Ted Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, a Washing-ton-based think tank.

It was that disagreement that led to the Chinese fighter pilot forcing the Navy's surveillance crew down in April 2001, following a series of confrontations between U.S. spy planes and the Chinese Air Force. Three tension-filled days passed before they were released

Now, said the defense official, "the Chinese are holding the MMCA semi-hostage" over the dispute.

The idea of a hot line from the Pen-tagon to the Chinese ministry of defense may be closer to reality. Instead of rebuffing the proposal during this latest visit, the Chinese now say they are "studying seriously" the concept, said the official.

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An advanced EP3-E Aries II is shown in this Navy file photo flying near Japan's Mount Fuji. An EP3 was forced to land in China in April 2003, resulting in three tense-filled days of negotiations between the United States and China.

#### Rumsfeld states interest in visit to Beijing in 2005

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has agreed in principle to pay an official visit to China, a significant step toward revitalizing a military-to-military dialogue forced into hiatus after a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter collided in in-

"striveniance pine and a Chinese lighter confider in international airspace in 2001.

"Secretary Rumsfeld is interested in visiting China this year," a senior Defense Department official said Tuesday. No final commitment had been made and no

He said the most recent military and defense policy white paper released by the government in Beijing described in troubling ways the American military pres-ence in the Pacific and characterized the security situation regarding Taiwan.

The American presence in the region "complicated se-curity factors," The New York Times reported the Chi-nese military document as stating. And the situation in the waterway dividing Taiwan from the Chinese main-land is "grim," it added.

ing reciprocal visits has come up, with the American del-

## sued over dealings with troops

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Strines

WASHINGTON - A group of Califor-nia attorneys has filed a class-action lawsuit against First Command Financial Planning that could result in payouts to military investors not included in last year's federal settlement.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of Southern California, asks for compensation for members of First Command's systematic investment plan, saying the company used "false and misleading marketing" in its dealings with troops.

First Command officials dismissed those accusations

"First Command Financial Planning is proud of its years of service to hundreds of thousands of military families," said Paul Cozby, a company spokesman. "We believe the complaint filed in San Diego contains numerous factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions, and we intend to vigorously defend the matter.'

In December, federal regulators announced First Command would refund about \$4 million to customers who bought and sold the systematic invest-ment plans between 1999 and 2004.

That settlement came after an investigation found the company's salespeople had misled military personnel about costs and returns associated with the plan. Company officials did not admit to or deny the charges, but have since stopped offering those funds.

Anyone who bought a systematic investment plan before Dec. 15 and did not sell the plan before that date could be eligible to join the class-action suit. according to Norman Blumenthal, one of eight attorneys already signed on to

Blumenthal said the goal is to help customers not included in the federal settlement, but also "punished" by First Command's sales practices.

"You shouldn't put military personnel in a position where you're taking that much money away in fees," he said. "We think it's a bad plan."

The systematic investment plans took as much as 50 percent of investors' first-year savings in broker fees and, the lawsuit states, higher-than-needed fees after that. Salespeople for the firm also are accused of lying about the likelihood of recouping that money, and misleading customers about better investment plans.

Blumenthal said First Command customers do not need to sign up to become part of the class - if a settlement or verdict award is reached, all those eligible will be able to recover money but he is encouraging military personnel he speaks with to talk with a financial adviser about their investments. "We're telling people there is no rea-

son to stay in this plan," he said. A lead plaintiff for the case is expected to be named by May 1, at which

point the courtroom process will begin. In addition to the \$4 million in refunds it was ordered to pay in the December federal settlement, First Command agreed to an \$8 million fine to be used to set up an investment education

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date had been set for a visit.

land is "grim," it added.
During recent talks, Pentagon officials pressed their
Chinese counterparts to explain those choices of worker
Chinese counterparts to explain those described as "an
escalation in the level of rhetoric." did described as "an
escalation in the level of rhetoric." did
secribed as "an escalation in the level of rhetoric."
The Chinese military's buildup across from Taiwan is
a substantial increase in capability" and "is an issue of
concern to us," the official said.
In recent bilateral discussions, the question of expandin recent bilateral discussions, the question of expand-

egations pressing for improving the quality "of what we get to see and do." the official said.

#### Fast 'Sea Fighter' alters the look of U.S. Navy By SANDI DOUGHTON

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - The future of the Navy is sit-

ting in a Whidbey Island shipyard, and Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan can't wait to take her for a spin. "It's the Navy's hottest sports car," said

the Seattle native, gazing at the burnished aluminum catamaran that will be his next command Dubbed "Sea Fighter," the 262-foot ship

will be the fastest vessel in the fleet, except for a few small patrol boats. The conservative estimate is that its 66,000-horsepower engines will push it to 50 knots, or about 57 mph, but Bryan says top speed will probably be closer to 60 knots, or nearly 70 mph. Looking like something out of an early

James Bond movie, the Sea Fighter is a souped-up version of a high-speed passenger catamaran, said Matt Nichols, president of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, winners of the \$46 million construction contract.

The design marks a revolutionary change for the Navy, which since World War II has been dominated by huge aircraft carriers destroyers and cruisers.

Sea Fighter, which was christened last



Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan, left, and Cmdr. Mark Thomas stand by the 262-foot Sea Fighter catamaran last week at Nichols Brothers Boat Buildings in Freeland, Wash.

week, was designed to test the technology needed for a new class of ships that will be lighter, faster and more suited to today's military and maritime realities.

The Sea Fighter is able to enter waters as shallow as 11 feet. The ship is so maneuver-

able it can turn on a dime at low speeds, said Steve Nordtvedt, program manager for San Diego-based Titan, the prime contractor. That flexibility will be a keystone of the

program for military personnel. new Navy, said Robert Work, a retired Ma-rine colonel and navy analyst.

## Army pushes deployment rest schedule

Stars and Stripes WASHINGTON - Army officials hope that more predictable deployment sched-

ules for active duty soldiers, reservists and guardsmen will lead to a better-trained force with quicker response times. Under a plan unveiled to Congress on Wednesday, active duty soldiers could expect two years at their home base after a year of deployment. Reservists would see five years of "dwell time" after each year in active duty service, and Guardsmen

would have four to five years at home between deployments. Army Secretary Francis Harvey said that plan likely won't go into effect until at least 2007, when other major training and force adaptations are complete. Officials want to shift the service to a brigade combat team focus over the next two years,

growing from 33 brigades to 44 But Harvey said more predictable de-

#### Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, 4-5 years at home for reserves

ployment schedules will create a better quality of life for soldiers by reducing stress on their families, which in turn will result in a more focused fighting force.

Of the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, be-tween 40 percent and 50 percent are from the Guard and Reserve. The figure is set to drop to 30 percent for the next rotation, beginning this summer, because many combat-ready Guard units are tapped out.

Last year, Congress mandated a tempo-rary increase of 30,000 soldiers to address

those personnel concerns.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said that about 20,000 of those new soldiers have been recruited, and officials will hire 2.000 new recruiters in the coming year to reach the 30,000 goal and keep the personnel numbers steady

"You can cut down 300,000 trees in no time, but it takes longer to grow 30,000 back," he said, noting that the Army dropped its active duty numbers by hundreds of thousands of soldiers after the first Gulf War.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee praised the overall force up-grades, but House Democrats criticized Army officials for what they called a short-sighted 2006 budget proposal that could leave the war on terror undermanned and the postwar Army poorly equipped

'Frankly, looking at this budget, it occurs to me that we could win this war but come out worse for it if we're not careful." said Rep. Ike Skelton, Miss., ranking Democrat of the House Armed Services Committee.

ing sources are found for new soldiers and equipment repairs, the Army could go back to "the hollow Army of the late 1970s and early 1980s ... when soldiers could not train because their equipment was so poor and spare parts were scarce."

The service's 2006 budget proposal, a \$98.6 billion plan that sets goals for training and upgrading the brigade system but does not include costs associated with comhat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey acknowledged that will be paid for with a supplemental budget request, to be unveiled later this month. The supplemental will also be

used to pay for the 30,000 new soldiers. Harvey estimated that supplemental budgets will be needed to pay for equipment maintenence and other war-related expenses for at least two years after the Army withdraws from the Middle East.

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## Senators begin efforts to save military planes cut in budget

By STEPHEN J HEDGES Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON - Less than 24 hours after the Bush administration announced its plans to save billions of dollars by scaling back two new Air Force planes, a group of senators on Tuesday launched a campaign to restore those cuts

Chief among them was Sen. Johnny Isakson, a Republican from Georgia, where 8,500 workers assemble both planes — the F/A-22 fighter jet and the C-130J Hercules transport — at the Lockheed Martin plant in Marietta. Attending a Pentagon breakfast with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Isakson said the secretary promised that indeed he was already reconsidering the C-130J cut.

"Rumsfeld said that he and the department are re-evaluating the C-130 proposal, and maybe some things had been overlooked," Isakson said. "It was a very positive sign ....

With the release earlier this week of President Bush's proposed 2006 budget calling for hundreds of program cuts, those with vested interests in how the federal government spends its money have wasted no time in starting to lobby the decision-makers members of Congress and key administration leaders - to save those ventures they care about.

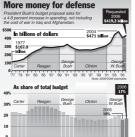
As part of that initial effort, some senators went to the Pentagon on Tuesday for a previously scheduled breakfast with Rumsfeld and questioned the wis-dom of reducing the number of F/A-22 Raptor fighter jets that would be produced, and canceling the new C-130J Hercules transport altogether. This effort was indicative of many of the battles expected to be waged over Bush's proposed budget

Rumsfeld spokesman Bryan Whitman said he was not at the breakfast and could not confirm the discussion about the C-130J. But Whitman said, "The department is conducting a mobility capability study that will update our overall mobility requirements.'

However one interprets the breakfast, it was no surprise that members of Congress stepped up quickly to take issue with the administration's proposed \$419.3 billion defense budget. Nor was it a surprise that the Raptor and the Hercules, two projects whose development costs have skyrocketed, would be on the administration's chopping block

"The F-22 should go away now," said Winslow Wheeler, a former Senate Budget Committee staff member and author of "The Wastrels of Defense," a book that examines Congress' role in authorizing multibillion-dollar military projects. "It should have been canceled long ago. Rumsfeld, for all his talk and all of his bravado, has been a pussycat on dealing with these programs."

While some federal agencies face budget cuts in





2006, the Pentagon budget is projected to grow by about \$19 billion over this fiscal year. It includes increases of \$9.7 billion for the Air Force.

But the service faces two painful reductions, if Congress goes along with Bush's proposal

One would authorize the purchase of 179 of its new Raptors, a plane that has been 19 years in the making and that only recently was put into production. That would be 96 fewer planes than the service was expecting.

At one time, the Air Force planned on a fleet of 750. So far, 45 Raptors have been delivered, according to Lockheed Martin, the primary manufacturer.

The second cut would end the production of the C-130J next year. To date, 121 planes have been delivered and 59 more are on order, according to Lockheed Martin, which also makes that plane.

Both planes have become more expensive over the years.

Critics now like to point out that the Pentagon is concurrently developing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, raising doubts about the need for two new fighter aircraft

#### AER fund-raising campaign to begin in March

The annual Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign will run from March 1 to May 15, according to the Installation Management Agency-Europe.

AER is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to "helping the Army take care of its own," and has been the Army's emergency fi-nancial assistance organization since 1942.

AER funds are made available to commanders to provide financial help for soldiers with valid emergency needs. Soldiers in need can contact their Army Community Service office or local chapter

of the American Red Cross. Soldiers — active-duty and retired — who wish to contribute may do so through a monthly allotment from their pay or with a check or cash donation to campaign coordinators in their units. Contributors

will get receipts for their donations, which are tax deductible. Last year, more than 40,000 troops and their families received more than \$35 million in AER assistance

For more information, go to www.aerhq.org.

#### **Employer Support Freedom award nominations**

National Guard members and reservists are being asked to nominate deserving employers for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Nominations can be made through

The award, established in 1996, recognizes employers who supnort and make sacrifices to enable their employees to serve as Guardsmen and reservists. Fifteen employers were given the 2004

Nominations can be made through the Web site of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, at www.esgr.mil.

#### Schoomaker appoints general for new position

ARLINGTON, Va. - Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker has selected Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez to be the first leader of a brand-new position: commander. Multi-National Division Northwest — Iraq.

Army Gen. George Casey, who has the top job commanding the overall Multinational Forces - Iraq, recently created the two-star billet. Rodriguez, who is now in line for a second star, will take his post around April 1, an Army official told Stripes on Tuesday.

Rodriguez is currently the Joint Staff's Deputy Director for Regional Operations. He became a familiar face to military watc after participating in several Pentagon briefings about Iraq in 2004.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, who as deputy commanding general for training and readiness at I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash., is also the commander of the Multi-National Brigade North in Iraq, will come to Washington to take Rodriguez' Joint Staff job, Army of-

#### Ft. Bragg soldier, teen girl found dead in home

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - A Fort Bragg soldier and a 16-year-old girl were found dead Tuesday in his home, the second shooting in a week involving soldiers at the base

Authorities said Pfc. George Daniel Katsigiannis, 21, and Jenna Bolgna, both natives of New York City, could have died as early as Friday. The girl had been staying with Katsigiannis

Maj. Sam Pennica of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office said investigators are looking at suspects but have no motive for the kill-

#### IN THE STATES

## 1 deputy killed, 2 wounded in shooting at Florida home

LAKE KATHRYN, Fla. - A sheriff's deputy was fatally shot and two others were wounded when a domestic battery suspect opened fire on them Wednesday as they responded to a home in the Ocala National Forest, officials said

Lake County Deputy Wayne Koester died after being transferred to a hospital, sheriff's Capt. Nick Pallitto told the Orlando Sentinel and local TV stations. Deputies Tom McKane and Bill Crotty were each shot in the leg and are undergoing treatment at an area

The suspect, Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, escaped on a motorcycle, which was later found ditched, Pallitto said. His girlfriend told deputies that Wheeler has an arsenal of weapons and that his property might be booby-trapped.

More than 100 deputies and officers from four different law enforcement agencies searched for Wheeler just minutes after the shooting was reported. Wheeler was considered armed and dan-

"It's an intensive manhunt and

we're going to get this guy," Pallit-

"He's going to be OK," Orange County spokesman Steve Triggs told the Orlando Sentinel about

Crotty. were on lockdown as deputies searched for a suspect, school dis-trict spokesman Janice Karst

Florida Highway Patrol troop-ers temporarily shut down por-tions of state roads 42 and 44 dur-

"We need people to stay in their houses while they search for this guy," Trooper Kim Miller said

Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, with his wife Katie, on Wednesday denounced rumors of infidelity spread by an aid of Gov. Robert Ehrlich. O'Malley also is drawing fire for statements perceived to be comparing President Bush's budget cuts to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

equates Bush budget

with Sept. 11 attacks

#### Va. House OKs hip-huggers crackdown Mayor of Baltimore

RICHMOND, Va. - Virginians who wear their pants so low their underwear shows may want to think about investing in a stronger belt.

The state's House of Delegates passed a bill Tuesday authorizing a \$50 fine for anyone who displays his or her underpants in a "lewd or indecent

Del. Lionell Spruill Sr., a Democrat who opposed the bill, had pleaded with his colleagues to remember their own youthful fashion follies.

During an extended monologue Monday, he talked about how they dressed or wore their hair in their teens. On Tuesday, he said the measure was an unconstitutional attack on young blacks that would force parents to take off work to accompany their children to court just for making a fashion

"This is a foolish bill, Mr. Speaker, because it will hurt so many." Spruill said before the measure was approved 60-34. It now goes to the state Sen-

The bill's sponsor, Del. Algie T. Howell, has said constituents were offended by the exposed undervear. He did not speak on the floor Tuesday

Spruill and Howell, also a Democrat, are both

#### low Democrats as well as Republi-Also, at a news conference

Wednesday, O'Malley denounced rumors of infidelity spread on the Internet by a longtime aide to Gov. Robert Ehrlich, saying he was the target of an "orchestrat-ed campaign," as his wife described the effect that the stories were having on their young chil-The mayor, who is weighing a

The Associated Press

O'Mallev likened the cuts in Presi-

dent Bush's budget proposal for

urban areas to the Sept. 11 at-

tacks drawing fire from his fel-

BALTIMORE - Mayor Martin

bid for governor in 2006 and is considered a rising star within the Democratic Party, was among a group of mayors and other local officials who held a news conference Tuesday in Washington to criticize the president's proposal to cut spending

for community development pro-"Back on September 11, terrorists attacked our metropolitan cores, two of America's great cit-They did that because they

grams by \$2 billion.

knew that was where they could do the most damage and weaken the most," O'Malley said "Years later, we are given a budget proposal by our commander

in chief, the president of the Unit-

ed States And with a hudget av he is attacking America's cities. He is attacking our metropolitan

Montgomery County, Md., Executive Douglas M. Duncan said O'Malley "went way too far."
"The president of the United

States is fighting terrorism. It hurts our cause when people say things like that," said Duncan, who like O'Malley is expected to seek the Democratic nomination in the 2006 race against Ehrlich

Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams, also a Democrat and president of the National League of Cities, said he disagreed with "the harsh language that was

O'Malley told The Washington Post he didn't intend to equate the proposed budget cuts to a ter rorist attack. "The point I am trying to make

is, for America to be strong, we have to strengthen our cities. Because we're in the middle of a war we need to be strengthening and protecting our cities, not ening our cities," he said.

O'Malley has been tapped by narty leaders on several occa sions to speak out on behalf of cities. He was a keynote speaker at the Democratic convention in Boston last year and was an early and open critic of the Bush administration's assistance to cities for homeland security.

### Bush cautious despite latest cease-fire pledge in Mideast

By BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Even with a cease-fire pledge from Israeli Palestinian leaders, President Bush is moving slowly to involve himself and U.S. prestige in the always risky, often disappointing Mideast peace process.

The fizzling of 10 announced cease-fires over the past four years is a sobering lesson for an already deliberate administration. Bush has refused to take short cuts, and he accepts the principle that the parties - not outsiders — bear ultimate responsibility for their fate.

In one respect, though, Bush already has turned a corner in agreeing to his first meeting with

#### **Analysis**

a Palestinian leader. He will confer separately this spring with Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

Bush shunned the late Yasser Arafat but has agreed to work with Arafat's successor. His cautious engagement and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's promise to play an active role in promoting a settlement bring the administration deeper into mediating the conflict than it has been in a year and a half.

"This is a time of opportunity," Rice said Tuesday at a news con-ference in Rome. But she balanced that positive note with an admonition: "There's a long road ahead of the Israelis and Palestin-

The administration plans to send a security adviser to the region, choosing Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, who will be in close contact with Rice. Bush also is seeking \$350 million in aid for the

But Bush does not appear inclined to move that fast, or that boldly, and several Middle East analysts agreed with his measured approach.

Edward S. Walker, a former U.S. ambassador to Egypt and to Israel, said "the U.S. role is to help the sides talk to each other' and "not get into the middle of their negotiations



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#### Teen girl scalped

BOISE, Idaho — A member of a punk clique surrendered Wednesday for scalping another member, apparently as punishment for her disrespectful behavior toward women, police said. The victim, a 16-year-lold girl whose hair was cut in a mohawk, sur-

Marianne Dahle, 26, surrendered on a felony arrest warrant for aggravated battery. Dahle is accused of tying up

Danie is accused of tying up the teenager and cutting away a 6-by-8-inch section of her scalp. The victim — who identified

The victim — who identified herself to reporters only as Sheila — said she underwent skin grafts and anticipated another surgery to repair the damage. Authorities did not release the girl's name.

#### Train strikes, kills 2

BOSTON — A commuter train struck and killed two Boston University students in the city's Allston section early

Wednesday morning.
The two were dead at the scene after they were hit by an inbound train from Worcester around 1 a.m., said Lydia Rivera, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

MBTA police investigators

were unsure why the two were on the tracks, Rivera said.

#### Eric Rudolph case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A whistleblower who once sparked a major review of the FBI crime lab is helping seried bombing suspect Eric Rudolph fight death penalty charges by challenging the work of another federal agency, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Once the FBI's top expert on bomb residue, Frederic W. Whitehurst has supplied the Rudolph defense with a sworn statement questioning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' model of the nail-laden bomb that exploded outside a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Jury selection is set to begin late next month in Rudolph's trial on charges of planting the bomb that went off outside the Birmingham clinic, killing an off-duty police officer and critically injuring a nurse.

#### Speaker dispute

BOULDER, Colorado — An embattled university professor who likened some of the Sept. 11 victims to the Nazi organizer of the Holocaust got a standing ovation when he told a campus audience of more than 1,000 people that "I'm not backing up an inch."

Ward Churchill went ahead

with the speech after the University of Colorado backed off an attempt to cancel the address, citing security reasons. Churchill had filed a lawsuit against the cancellation.

Churchill's comments, which appeared in an essay he wrote soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, prompted a firestorm of criticism when they became widely known last month, prompting him to resign as chairman of Colorado University's ethnic studies department.

rom The Associated Press

## Medicare drug benefit costs to rise

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare's new prescription drug program will cost taxpayers \$720 billion over its first 10 years, with costs reaching \$100 billion a year by the middle of the next decade, according to a new estimate by the Bush administration.

The new number is far higher than any previous estimate produced by the administration or Congress, but it reflects what lawmakers and health care analysts have known all along: As baby boomers turn 65 and swell Medicare's rolls, the government's tab for their health care is expected to rise substantially.

The new projection issued Tuesday runs from 2006 to 2015 and is not directly comparable to the

## Prescription drug program will cost \$720 billion over 10 years

\$400 billion estimate lawmakers had when they narrowly approved Medicare legislation in 2003 or to the revised estimate of \$534 billion that the White House issued just two months later, after the law was enacted.

Those figures covered the 10 years from 2004 to 2013 — two years to devise the drug benefit and put it in place and eight years in which the government would pay some drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

The drug benefit begins in January and the \$720 billion includes the years 2014 and 2015, Medicare spokesman Gary Karr said.

"Of course the costs go up

when you add in more years at the end and more people are on Medicare," Karr said.

Drug costs, which have been rising far faster than inflation, also are expected to be higher in those years.

Based on the numbers released Tuesday, the program's costs are estimated at roughly \$100 billion annually in 2014 and 2015, or more than a third of what the Medicare bill originally was projected to cost for the entire first 10 years, ending in 2013.

Under the new program, participants will pay monthly premiums that are expected to average \$35 in 2006 and the first \$250 in drug costs. Medicare will pick up 75 percent of the next \$2,000 in prescription expenses. After that, a gap is built into coverage during which participants are responsible for the entire drug bills until costs top \$5,100, after which the government pays 95 percent.

Controversy over cost has plagued the program since before its passage. The administration's Medicare chief pressured a subordinate to withhold his higher estimates of the cost of the legislation from Congress, a report by the Health and Human Services Department inspector general concluded.

cluded.

The bill narrowly passed the House, 220-215, after an extraordinary three-hour, mid-dle-of-the-night vote in which GOP leaders and administration officials cajoled reluctant Republicans to support President Bush's key domestic priority.



This artist rendering provided by the National Park Service on Friday shows "The Crescent of Embrace" by Journal Mardoch Architects of Los Angeles, one of the design finalists for the Flight 39 National memorial. More than 1,000 designs were submitted for a memorial for the flight which crashed in a western Pennsylvania, killing 40 passengers and crew on Sept. 11, 2001.

#### Flight 93 memorial process begins

BY PATRICIA LOWRY Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The journey from Pittsburgh to the United Flight 93 crash site in Somerset County is a process of elimination. We pass from urban to suburban to rural farm to remote field.

Travel on, up over the ridge and into a wide, open, bowl-like field partially fringed by a small force of trees. There, on the right, is a parking lot and just beyond it, the temporary memorial, 40 feet of chain-link fence to which visitors have attached flags, FDNY and local rescue workers' based larges, icense plates, bouquets of plastic flowers and photographs of victims.

"People come," said Donna Zwick, who lives on a nearby farm and is one of 40 "ambassadors" who staff the temporary memorial near Shanksville, Pa. Even in the biting winds of winter, "they just keep comine."

In three years, more than 500,000 people have visited the Flight 93 crash site and left 20,000 objects, most of them now in archival storage. They will become part of the permanent memorial, scheduled to break ground later this year. Five finalists in the de-

sign competition were recently selected.
The plane's impact area was small and compact, but the memorial will be large, 2,200 acres owned and operated by the National Park Service, complete with park rangers and parking for 200 vehicles. There will be a visitor information center, achival storage and maintenance buildings, roads, trails utilities.

The plane came down on private land, in a field being reclaimed after deep and surface mining. The creation of a national park promises permanent access as well as the funds to produce and maintain a

quality memorial and continue the land reclamation, perhaps as a distinctive earthwork.

Absent the temporary memorial, there is no evidence that anything significant happened there. Because the crash site is also a gravesite, the crater made from the impact has been filled in, so the who should interpret it, and how? How should interpret it, and how it is a simple it in the people caught up in them? Good guidance came from "the partners," a coalition of groups representing Flight 93 family members, local residents, design professionals and the National Park Service. In ers have proceeded in a commendable way, beginning with a detailed mission statement that emphasizes commemoration, education and respect for the rural landscape.

The memorial must honor the dead, who are believed to have thwarted a planned attack on Washington, D.C. It should invite the public to express their feelings about the event, and it should preserve "the solemn and tranquil setting" of the crash site.

The memorial also must revere the site as hallowed burial ground, commemorate the events of 9/11, celebrate the lives of the passengers and crew, express the nation's appreciation, educate visitors about the context of the events of 9/11 and offer a place of comfort, hope and inspiration. Anyone could enter this open competition, and 10/11 individuals or teams did — about a fifth of the

Anyone could enter this open competition, and 1011 individuals or teams did — about a fifth of the 5,201 entries in the World Trade Center memorial competition. While many were not professional designers, the prox had the edge, not only with their speak and interpret the language of design. Most of the finalists are experienced design professionals; one is an architecture student.

#### Judge rules an embryo is a person

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — All Alison Miller and Todd Parrish wanted was to become parents. But when a fertility clinic didn't preserve a healthy embryo they had hoped would one day become their child, they sued for wrongful

A judge refused to dismiss their case, ruling in effect that a test-tube embryo is a human being and that the suit can go for-

Though most legal experts believe the ruling will be overturned, some in the fertility business worry it could have a chilling effect, threatening everything from in vitro fertilization to abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research.

"If the decision stands, it could sessentially end in vitro fertilization," said Dr. Robert Schenken, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Few doctors would risk offering the procedure if any accident that harmed the embryo could result in a wrongful death lawsuit, said Schenken, chairman of obsterrics and gynecology at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

He said the society, a professional group for fertility doctors, is considering filing a court brief opposing Friday's ruling by Cook County Judge Jeffrey Lawrence.

is considering lining a count of opposing Priday's ruling by Cook County Judge Jeffrey Lawrence. The lawyer for the clinic, James Kopriva, declined to say if an appeal is planned, but added, "We are weighing our options. We disagree with the court's decision and do not believe Illinois law provides for the remedy provided by the court."

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. However, it could provide impetus for groups elsewhere to push an agenda opposing both abortion rights and stem cell research, said Northwestern University law professor Victor Rosenblum, an abortion foe who has worked with anti-abortion activists.

#### Stars honor Dean on anniversary of birth

#### Legendary actor would have been 74

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BY DAISY NGUYEN The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Was the "Rebel Without A Cause" driven to early death because of his rebellious nature? It depends on whom you ask

Friends and former co-stars of James Dean disagree on whether he had a death wish, but all agree the screen idol influenced them

and the moviegoing public. Dean, who died 50 years ago in a car accident, would have been 4 on Tuesday, and a celebration of sorts was held to kick off a yearlong celebration leading to his 75th birthday

'We had talked about growing older," said actor Martin Landau

"He used to worry that he looked like a kid when he became

But photographer Phil Stern who captured a famous shot of Dean with a turtleneck covering half his face, thinks Dean had no

intention of growing old.

voice today!

"Dean was very prescient because he structured his career in such a way that he passed away which I believe was inevitable - in a way that precluded the possibility of people seeing him as a potbellied, bald man," Stern

Martin Sheen who stars in NBC's "The West Wing," was only a boy when he saw Dean in "East of Eden." Dean's performance inspired Sheen to become an actor

"All of his movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work and all of my generation, Sheen said. "He transcended cinema acting. It was no longer acting, it was human behavior

Jane Withers said working with the sometimes aloof Dean in "Giant" was the highlight of her career, but she had to get past his

attitude early on "He acted like a little kid and when someone acts like a kid, I Withers treat them like one,"

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said. "I didn't put up with any guff, and because of it, we had a very warm relationship."

Earl Holliman, who was also in "Giant," sees Dean's aloofness as a product of his desire to remain focused on work.

"Jimmy was a guy who didn't care what people think of him," Holliman said. "He said that wasn't important. What was important was what was on the screen

Despite his brief Hollywood career, Dean's image as rebel antihero still resonates with market-

Warner Bros, plans to release "Giant," "Rebel" and "East of Eden" on DVD this year. And Dean's image will adorn two NASCAR racing cars this sum-

## **New allegations** against Cosby

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — A California lawyer says she has told Montgomery County, Pa., investigators who are probing sex allegations against Bill Cosby that the entertainer drugged her and tried to force himself on her about 30 years ago.

Tamara Green, a longtime criminal and civil lawyer and former fashion model, said she decided to tell her story after Cosby's lawyer and the Montgomery County district attorney publicly cast doubt on a former Temple University women's basketball executive's allegations that Cosby drugged and groped her at his Elkins Park, Pa., mansion last year.

"I realize that him doing it to me 30 years ago doesn't prove he did it to this girl today, but when I heard the circumstances, I felt compelled to call up and say, 'He did exactly the same thing to me," said Green, 57.

"Do I want everybody to know that he had his dirty paws all over me? No," she said.
"But I don't think it's right that

they're going to disregard this woman and her allegations. I feel like they should look into it more

What she said convinced her to go public was not any desire for justice for herself or for money or even for publicity. She said she be-lieves it was her "civic duty and was her moral obligation" to come forward after Cosby's lawyer denounced



claims as "bi preposterand 0118 Montgomery County Dis-trict Attor-ney Bruce L. Castor Jr character-

woman's

ized the case against

Cosby's lawyer, Walter Phillips Jr., denied Green's allegations. He would not answer questions about her story. "I've spoken with my cli-ent," Phillips said. "Mr. Cosby does not recognize the names Tamara Green or Tamara Lucier [her maiden name]. ... [T] the incident you described did not happen in any way, shape or form.

Cosby also has denied the former Temple executive's allega-



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#### Retirees can serve, too

As a physically fit and well-maintained retired noncommissioned officer, I find it absolutely ridiculous that retirees are not allowed to give up their retirement pay to come back in and fight for our country.

I keep seeing all these stories about civilians being brought back into the military, some under duress, after anywhere from six to 20-plus years past their termina-

tion/release I have been told by the recruiters that retired soldiers are not wanted. We have signed our name to defend this country nu-

merous times and many of us are willing to do it again. We are required to have "hip-pocket" orders in case of war or national emergency.

Give me a contract, and I'll even buy my own desert battle dress uniforms, but don't say that because I'm retired I'm now out to

pasture. Speaking for myself, I will do all I can to defend this nation from all enemies, foreign

and domestic, if called upon. Sgt. 1st Class Rick S. McLaughlin (retired) Giebelstadt, Germany

#### CIB is a badge of honor

This is in reference to the many letters regarding the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Every servicemember who serves, whether in a combat zone or not, should be commended. No one should ever be allowed to minimize someone's service because they were or were not in combat, or they were or were not in the infantry.

This said, not everyone who serves deserves the opportunity to earn the Combat Infantryman Badge or Expert Infantryman Badge. The badge represents more than

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just the successful completion of a set of tasks, or the participation in a firefight.

It represents a badge of honor to those whose entire careers are filled with hardship: heavy loads on long marches, squad and platoon live-fire exercises in full combat gear in 120-degree heat, waiting all night in freezing-cold rain to execute an ambush that never happens because enemy never shows up where you want him to, and the list goes on. Again, there are many soldiers out there

who are doing an outstanding job in Iraq. In no way do I mean to minimize the flexibility or commitment of each and every soldier who had to quickly learn new skills in order to accomplish his mission in Iraq.

But you are either infantry, or you're not. The soldiers who earn that badge are infan-

try before they go to Iraq and, for most of them who choose to make the Army a career, they will remain in the infantry after their tour in Iraq is through.

So please, not only for our status as the tip of the spear in times of war, but also for the hardships that we endure our entire career, let us have our badge. It is unique to our pro-fession, and represents so much more than

tasks performed, or war survived. Capt. Gregory Cook Iraa

#### British community has benefited

I'm surprised at the animosity shown to the U.S. Air Force in Europe services squad-ron, let alone to the RAF Mildenhall active-duty community, in "Invite British charities, too" (letter, Feb. 6).

I was stationed at RAF Lakenheath, less than six miles from RAF Mildenhall from April 2001 to April 2003, a proud two years

"What about the British community?" the letter writer asks. So what about it?

Last time I checked, the American community has been more than generous in contributing to the prosperity of the surrounding area, from nurchasing houses to having military spouses opening up businesses Don't forget the hundreds and thousands of British pounds spent in local shops, pubs and restaurants. I must have spent count-less nights at the Half Moon Pub, making new friends and meeting up with old ones.

They should take some of the money and invest it in insurance and protection for the Americans who get their cars broken into on a daily basis. I think that would improve the community tremendously.

Senior Airman Bryce Lehman Ali Al Salem, Kuwait

## Bush's take is proper tack on gangs

BY GREGORY J. BOYLE

uring the Clinton years, I received a call from the White House one week before a State of the Union address. I was asked if I would be willing to attend and sit next to Hillary, because the president was going to make some remarks on the gang issue. As someone who has worked with gangs for nearly two decades, I guess I landed on their short list

I was scheduled to leave Los Angeles for Washington. But two days before I was to depart, a call came, with regrets expressed, to tell me that I had been bumped from my seat next to the first lady. A female police of ficer had won the slot instead.

In the end, I couldn't have been more grateful to have been axed, because when I heard President Clinton's remedy for gang violence, I was unimpressed. All he wanted was a fist made of stronger iron and tougher sentencing. I was relieved to be in my living room that night. Because tougher laws and longer sentences are not the solution.

This year I received a similar call, this time from the current White House's

faith-based initiative office, asking if I would be "opposed" to attending a White House event focused on gang viole

My only opposition would be if they tried to offer a simple solution to an enormously complex issue

When I watched the State of the Union speech, I was surprised by what President Bush had to say about the gang dilemma. As a lifelong Democrat, I could fill these pages with the many subjects on which the president and I disagree. But this time, I was impressed. I have never before heard a president speak of gangs and then suggest that despair might well be at the root of the problem. He did. And he suggested offering "hope to harsh places" and said he wants to "better options than apathy or gangs or iail" to young people in our cities, and especially young men. Not bad.

I believe assigning the first lady to the task of this proposed three-year, \$150 million effort gives it heft, not just lip service.

When all is said and done, a president

spoke of gangs without once speaking of tougher laws and more suppression. Per-haps nothing will come of it, but a different language was used, and that's progress.

At the moment of this writing, I've just left a hospital where a young man. Martin. was pronounced dead, and another, Michael, struggles with serious wounds. Martin was on his way to a job interview and Michael was driving him. Gang gunfire ended one life, and altered the other forever.

I will support anyone who is sensible on the gang violence issue. ...

My hope is that this proposal will not limit itself simply to prevention - with a heart full of wanting to steer young people straight. Worthy as that is, it will be only a half measure if we seek to improve the odds for some kids without altering the odds themselves. ... Early prevention, mentoring, massive

campaigns to provide jobs, gang-worker counseling, knowledgeable police vigilance - they all need to be done and lack only our will to do them. Whether we are ultimately sensible on this issue is vet to be seen, but new language matters and sometimes even propels us where we need to go.

Gregory J. Boyle, a Jesuit priest, is executive direc-tor of Jobs for a Future/Homebov Industries, This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

#### Doonesbury







BY GARRY TRUDEAU

#### **OPINION**

## Troop increase justified by new obligations

day after President Bush bluntly ruled out an "artificial timetable" for withdrawal from Iraq, the Pentagon delivered a sobering follow-up: While the 15,000 additional U.S. troops deployed for [the Jan. 30] elections will be withdrawn, the 17 remaining brigades - 135 000 soldiers and Marines will be needed in Iraq at least through the end of this year.

That estimate is understandable, given the continuing strength of the Sunni insurgency and the troubles in preparing Iraqi securiforces. In fact, even the post-election reduction seems questionable, given that vital infrastructure and roads in Iraq, and even the highway from downtown Baghdad to the airport, have not been secured. Yet the alarming truth may be that the administration has little choice but to draw down troops: As it is, the present deployment in Iraq is on the verge of breaking an undermanned Army

[Last week] senior military offi-cials gave the latest in a series of alarming reports about the strain two years of fighting simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cara fourth rotation of rying out troops into Iraq in the fall will be "painful." Gen. Richard A. Cody testified before the House Armed Services Committee; he suggested that it might necessitate breaking a rule that limits reservists to 24 months of active duty. Congressional pressure obliged the Pentagon to quickly prick that trial balloon, but the troops will have to come from somewhere

By the time the fall mobilization takes place all 15 of the National Guard's most deployable brigades will have been mobilized, and some regular units may have to return next year for a third combat tour. Some are risking their lives involuntarily: Stop-loss orders for soldiers completing their service and the recall of some already discharged have created a backdoor

Predictably, it is getting harder and harder for the Army and Marines to recruit young men and women willing to bear such hardshins. The Marines missed their recruiting goal last month for the first time in a decade, and all of the missed their recruiting goals in the first quarter of this fiscal year. The nal Guard signed up barely half of the recruits it aimed for in January: its commander warned in December that unless it received \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment, the force "will be bro-

For several years, policy experts and congressmen from both parties have been warning Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that the size of the Army must be increased to meet the challenges of the war against terrorism notwith. standing his pet doctrine — developed before Sept. 11, 2001 - of a smaller, lighter force. Now, thanks to Mr. Rumsfeld's stubborn refusal to listen, a crisis is at hand

The Pentagon may finally be conceding some ground: Deputy De-fense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the Senate Armed Services Committee [last week] that a tem-porary increase of 30,000 troops in the Army would be made permanent in the 2007 budget and that a quadrennial review of Pentagon doctrine getting under way would reconsider the size of the force. That's a step in the right direction.



but more urgent action is needed. Last month, a bipartisan group of former senior defense and security officials and policy experts delivered a letter to Congress recommending an increase in the active-duty Army and Marines together of at least 25,000 troops each year over the next several years. Since such a buildup does not appear in the administration's budget for next year. Congress should require it — before the damage to the military grows worse.

#### U.S. must respect S. Korea's precarious position BY BENJAMIN S. KNIGHT

The Providence (R.I.) Journal

ot more than three years ago, res taurants in Seoul were refusing to serve Americans "%\$& America!" became a hit single, and the national teachers union was disseminating lesson plans teaching anti-Americanism to schoolchildren.

Today, things have toned down considerably, and yet anti-American protests remain a common sight. This is our most important partner in resolving the issue of North Korean President Kim Jong Il's nuclear program and as the third-largest foreign military presence in Iraq, an essential ally in the war

This is disconcerting, not just because the United States needs every friend it has, but because as annoyance turns to anger, South Korea will naturally start looking elsewhere for a powerful friend to help ensure its secu-rity. China would love to readopt the paternalistic relationship it has traditionally had with a unified Korea, and today there are signs of that relationship's re-emerging.

Now that China has replaced the United

States as the chief consumer of South Korean goods, more and more South Koreans are learning Mandarin, as opposed to English According to the U.S. Institute of Internation al Education, the number of South Koreans studying in the United States grew 11 per-cent in 2001. But in large part because of the extraordinary difficulty of obtaining a U.S. visa post-Sept. 11, that annual growth has since slowed to 5 percent. Meanwhile, the number of South Koreans studying in China has increased tenfold in the last two years.

International students are the best conduits of American culture and perspective. an important advantage that is slowly being forfeited to China. Further contributing to a decline in U.S.

prestige and influence is the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea to fight in Iraq, a move forcing officials here [in Seoul to question just how much the United States can be counted on.

On the diplomatic front, China's pressur-

ing of North Korea to return to six-party talks on its nuclear program has, in South Korea's eyes, contributed far more toward resolving the nuclear standoff than anything that the United States has done as of late, especially in view of President Bush's penchant for "talking tough." Many in South Korea consider Bush to be a greater threat

to stability than Kim Jong II. Given how poor America's image is here and the high frustration that many South Koreans feel toward the United States, it is easy to forget that the common interests be-tween the two countries are many. The folfactors should continue to unite South Korea and the United States for the foreseeable future:

■ South Korea's historic successes in preserving its sovereignty (despite its small size) came as a result of carefully balancing one great power against another. South Korea benefits only if the United States and China compete over its affections.

■ The United States has never made any territorial claims on Korea. However, with the declaration by Chinese historians that the ancient Korean kingdom of Koguryo was, in fact, part of China, Beijing has effectively done just that.

■ The United States would greatly benefit should a united, democratic Korean state emerge, whereas China would lose a useful buffer state and ally, and thus is unlikely to earnestly support reunification.

For the time being, the chances of South Korea's embracing China in lieu of the United States are slim. Nevertheless, it is a relationship that should not be taken for grant ed. If the United States is to ensure that South Korea remains a dependable ally in the years to come, it must begin to re-evaluate how it deals with both North and South.

A good start is doing a better job of acknowledging our ally's contributions It makes for bad press when the president forgets to mention South Korea's contribution of 3,600 troops to Iraq.

Another good idea would be if the United States consulted more with South Korea about North Korea. As much as South Korea's "Sunshine Policy" and Bush's "Axis of Evil" might be at odds with each other, remember that South Korea not only has the most to lose in another Korean war, but also has more experience in dealing with North Korea as a potential threat. The United States should do more to cultivate a public

image of standing with our ally in rapproche ment with the North, as opposed to wringing South Korea's arm to deploy troops to Iraq. Finally, in addition to decreasing the U.S

military presence slowly and incrementally, it wouldn't hurt if commanders did more to rein in wild U.S. troops. Pictures of American soldiers with South Korean prostitutes abound, and elicit a very strong reaction in this deeply Confucian country. State Department talk of "lessening America's footprint' in South Korea indicates that it is only too aware of the problem.

While South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's administration is keenly aware of the dangers of falling out with the United States America's challenge now must be to instill in the current generation the same respect for the United States, and U.S.-South Korean relations, held by their elders, Given how much South Korean and American interests coincide, to do so should not be diffi-

However, as more and more youths reach voting age, irritated at what they perceive to be a unilateral and unhelpful ally, the clock is most certainly ticking.

njamin S. Knight teaches in South Korea

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



#### IN THE WORLD

Policemen investigate the scene where a powerful car homb exploded in Madrid on Wednesday. The blast followed a warning from a caller claiming to represent the armed Basque separatist group FTA The attack injured at least 43 people. officials said



## Car bomb injures 43 in Madrid; ETA blamed

BY ED MCCULLOUGH

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A car bomb exploded Wednesday in a business park on the outskirts of Madrid just after the morning rush hour, injuring 43 people. Government officials blamed the Basque separatist group ETA.

The blast blew out windows at the back of a modern, six-story, brick-and-glass office building located about 10 yards from the car, which was destroyed.

Most of the injured were people inside who suffered cuts from flying glass shards.

"What saved me ... was my computer." which faced the first-story window, said Manuel Amenteros, communications director for Bull, the French computer maker which has its offices in the building.

"I think it's destroyed," said Amenteros, who was knocked to the floor by the blast.

Bull's director-general for Spain, Julio del Valle, has an office overlooking the street where the car was parked. His window was blown out by the blast. "I was really lucky," he said, with a bandaged right hand and flecks of blood on his suit.

Authorities noted a caller claiming to represent ETA gave the general location of the attack less than an hour before it happened. Speaking from Poland, where he's on an official visit, Prime Minies on an official visit, Prime Minies on Said, "I want to tell ETA terrorists, and those who support them, that there is no room for them in political life nor in society. Bombs lead only to prison."

In Madrid, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso noted 14 ETA suspects were arrested Tuesday and the car bomb went off Wednesday

day.
"Those are the facts."

The Basque regional parliament wants Spain to accept "shared sovereignty" over the three-province region, across the Pyrenees mountains from southwest France. Last week the national Parliament voted a resounding "no."

#### Israel to lift travel restrictions

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel will lift travel restrictions on Palestinians in parts of the West Bank and abandon several major checkpoints as part of its withdrawal from five towns in the coming weeks, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday.

Free travel would be the most tangible improvement yet in the lives of ordinary Palestinians, sending a strong message that a cease-fire with Israel is beginning to pay off. Abbas made the announcement a day after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Mideast summit in Egypt.

A senior Israeli military official confirmed that several roadblocks would be removed as part of the handover of security responsibility for the five towns to the Palestinians. The handover of Jericho. Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Bethlehem and Ramallah will occur during the next three weeks, according to a timetable agreed to by Abbas and Sharon on Tuesday.

A second meeting between the two, set for Sharon's Sycamore Ranch in southern Israel, could take place "in the coming days or a week," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia met with the West Bank security commanders and instructed them to be prepared to take responsibility for the five areas, participants said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israel and the Palestinians would form four committees that would begin meeting next

week to coordinate the moves.

Before the violence erupted four years ago, tens of thousands

of Palestinians worked in Israel. Additionally, 500 merchants

usands U.S.-led war on t be hoped Iraq w chants as such a nation.

will be allowed to enter Israel for business, and relatives will be allowed to visit Gaza residents incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Four hundred Palestinian employees of international organizations will be allowed to move freely between

Gaza and the West Bank.
A roadblock cutting off Gaza's
main north-south road will be
opened 24 hours to public transport and Palestinian security vehicles though not to private cars.

cles, though not to private cars.
Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, visiting the USS O'Bannon anchored off the coast of France on Wednesday, said more moderate Islamic nations are needed to counter the threat of extremism.

Rumsfeld, in Nice, France for a meeting of NATO defense ministers, held up the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan as such moderates willing to help in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. He said he hoped Iraq would also emerge



Α

Pope John Paul II waves to faithful from a window of Rome's Agostino Gemelli hospital as he appears for the Sunday Angelus prayer. The 84-year-old pope, who was rushed to the hospital last week, is now doing better and celebrated Ash Wednesday.

## Pope makes Ash Wednesday observance in hospital room

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — His forehead smeared with the traditional mark of mortality, Pope John Paul II celebrated Ash Wednesday in his hospital room, missing public prayers opening the Lenten season of fasting and reflection for the first time in 26 years.

The frail 84-year-old pope, surrounded by his personal physician and other doctors treating him for the flu and breathing trouble, held Mass in his tightly guarded suite at Rome's Gemelli Polychinic. Ash Wednesday is a day with special resonance for believers getting the biblical reminder: "You have come from dust and to dust you shall return."

John Paul received ashes he had blessed earlier during Wednesday's ceremony at the hospital, where he was rushed or Feb. 1 with throat spasms. The pope invited his personal doctor, Renato Buzzonetti, and others to join him, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome, said the pope looked "really well" more than a week after his urgent hospitalization.

Doctors urged John Paul to prolong his hospital stay to be on the safe side, and the Vatican has not set a date for his discharge. The pope was not expected to leave the hospital before Thursday, when the Holy See issues its next update on his health and recov-

In services at \$t. Peter's Basilica originally scheduled as a papal event, American Cardinal James Stafford presided in the name of John Paul. It was the first time since he became pope in 1978 that he missed public Ash Wednesday prayers, which kick off a 40-day period of fasting and prayer for Roman Catholics culminating with Easter.

In addition to serving as a reminder of mortality, the ashes also symbolize penitence and humility.

## Rice to Iran: Answers expected to nuclear program inquiries

The Associated Pre

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday that Iran cannot delay indefinitely accountability for a suspected nuclear weapons program, but said the United States has set "no deadline, no timeline" for Tehran to act.

Rice, making her first visit to Europe as Washington's top envoy, said the United States remains in "closer consultations" with its European allies on the issue.

But she warned Tehran that the United States would not accept foot-dragging by the government there as officials weigh various diplomatic overtures by European nations to resolve the nuclear question.

Rice said Iran must live up to its obligations.

"I'm quite clear, and I believe everybody is telling the Iranians that they are going to have to live up to their international obligations," she said at a news conference with NATO officials. "It is obvious that if Iran cannot be brought to live up to its international obligations, in fact, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) statute would indicate that Iran would have to be referred to the U.N. Security Counsil!"

cil."
"I think the message is there — the Iranians need to get that message," she said, adding that Tehran should know that "there are other steps" the international community can take.

In the Fox interview, Rice said: "We have believed all along that Iran ought to be referred to the Security Council and then a variety of steps are available to the international community."

Rice told reporters Iran already is on notice that it must not use a civilian nuclear power program to hide a weapons project.

Iran has denied making nuclear weapons, and says its nuclear activities are geared solely toward generating electricity.

## Blair 'sorry' for wrongful convictions in IRA attacks

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trauma that the

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Tony Blair

BY ED JOHNSON The Associated Press

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday issued a public apology 11 people whose wrongful imprisonment for IRA bombings three decades ago was drama-tized in the film "In the Name of

the Father.

The people were jailed in connection with Irish Republican Army bombings in the English towns of Guildford and Woolwich in 1974, which killed a total of seven people and injured more than 100.

All 11 were subsequently ac quitted and the case is regarded as one of Britain's biggest miscarriages of justice.

"I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and injustice," said Blair in a televised statement. The Guildford and Woolwich

bombings killed seven people and injured more than 100. Their loss, the loss suffered by their families, will never go away. But it serves no one for the wrong people to be convicted for such an awful crime."

One of them, Anne Maguire, welcomed the apology delivered to television cameras in Blair's House of Commons office.

"This is very important to my family and their children and our great-grandchildren," Maguire said after meeting Blair with other family members.

"We would like it to be the police and that apologizing. It is lovely for Mr. Blair to do it

In the critically acclaimed 1993 film, "In the Name of the Father," actor Daniel Day-Lewis portraved one of the accused Gerry Conlon, who served 15 years in jail. Pete Postlethwaite played Conlon's father Guiseppe, who died in prison in 1980.

"It is a matter of great regret when anyone suffers a miscar-riage of justice, said Blair, who met with some of the acquitted on

Wednesday.
"And, as with the others, I recognize the trauma that the conviction caused the Conlon and Magu-

ire families and the stigma which wrongly attaches to them to this day. I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and such an injustice. That's why I am making this apology today. They deserve to be completely and publicly exonerated."



The Year of the Rooster began Wednesday, kicking off a weeklong Spring Festival holiday, the most important in the Chinese calendar. To celebrate, Chinese burned incense sticks for good luck at Beijing's White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

#### Chinese celebrate Year of the Rooster

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A holiday calm fell over bustling cities as Chinese communities across Asia wel-comed the Year of the Rooster with prayers Wednesday for tsunami victims and a safer 2005.

Businesses and government offices from Beijing to

Singapore closed as hundreds of millions of ethnic visited temples and held family reunions to mark the passing of the Year of the Monkey In Indonesia's

province, before throwing incense sticks worshippers the Vihara Dharma Bhakti temple in the provincial

capital of Banda Aceh burned incense as they bowed in prayer for the tens of thousands killed there by the Dec. 26 disaster.

'We feel a great emptiness inside but we're here to give

tsunami-ravaged A woman prays for good luck

into a fire at White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

tival in the Chinese capital marking the end of the holiday.

Elsewhere in China, millions of

people who streamed out of cities to visit their hometowns for the most important holiday of the year were exchanging gifts and settling down to family feasts.

pray for the forgiveness of sins

and peacefulness of those who

died," said Lai Nier Sin, a hair-

dresser whose older brother's

In Beijing, a city of 14 million

fortune

clouds

fumed

Security was

heavy in an effort

to prevent a re-

peat of a disaster

last February in

which 37 people were killed in a

stampede at a fes-

ed as tens of thou-

sands of people

thronged temples

in a freezing wind to pray for good

amid of per-incense

people, streets were nearly desert-

family was washed away

### Mobster feuds in Naples expand

BY DANIEL WILLIAMS

The Washington Post

NAPLES. Italy - If you're a gangster in Naples these days. even mom's not safe. In January, Carmela Attrice an-

swered a call on her condominium intercom from someone she recognized, went down to the front door and was met by three men. They pumped a dozen bullets into her. The reason, police say: Attrice's son, Francesco, belonged to an organized crime faction locked in a battle for control of drug trafficking. Over the past five months, a se-

ries of brazen killings here has provided a new meaning for the

adage in praise of this seaside city: "See Naples and die." About 135 people have been gunned down in the city's organized crime feud, about 40 of them in the neighborhood of Scampia, epicenter of the violence and the place where Carmela Attrice lived and died. Mob-related killings in January numbered 16 citywide; there have been four so far in February.

The variety of crime scenes and gruesome homicides has been stunning - a customer at a pizzeria shot dead and left face down in a still-warm pie; a restaurant owner killed at his cash register in plain view of customers; a woman shot point-blank and her body stuffed in the trunk of a car that was then set on fire: shootings in a laundry, a tobacco shop and grocery stores

The camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, has existed for three centuries. Like their better-known cousin.

the Sicilian Mafia, the camorra operate ahmad safeguarding drug routes in both Eastern and Western Europe. The Naples bloodshed is being carried out between warring members of a single camorra clan, the di Lauros, with loyalists based in Naples fighting a renegade faction based in

Spain, a major transfer point for drugs into Italy.

Special correspondent Stacy Meichtry

#### Stars and Stripes Valentines Day Greetings

Look for your greetings February 14th in the Europe and Middle East editions

Messages sent to the Middle East may also be viewed at www.stripes.com







#### 100,000 UK fans pre-order new Potter book

LONDON - More than 100,000 fans have pre-ordered the new Harry Potter book that goes on sale in five months' time, the British di-

vision of online book retailer Amazon said Monday.

The sixth title in the hugely successful series by J.K. Rowling,
"Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince," went to the top of amazon.co.uk's sales chart on the first day of its announcement on Dec. 22,

The children's version of the book, rumored to have a different cover design from the adult copy, has remained in the No. 1 spot ever since. Amazon.co.uk says it is planning to send out all pre-ordered copies of the book to arrive on July 16. the day of public release.

#### Danish PM wants EU constitution referendum

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - Denmark's newly re-elected government will return to the campaign trail later this year to encour ers to adopt the European Constitution in a referendum, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Wednesday

Danes gave Fogh Rasmussen's government a second four-year term Tuesday, embracing his pledge to keep immigration in check, and

races, among Europe's highest, from rising.

With 99.7 percent of the votes tallied, the governing bloc — a coalition of Liberals, Conservatives and the anti-immigration Danish Peoples Party — received 54 percent of the vote and 95 seats in the 179-seat Folketing, or parliament.

Rasmussen hopes to persuade Danes to approve the EU constitution in a referendum later this year or next. The historic charter must be approved by all 25 EU members.

From the Associated Press

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#### Murder charge

GA DAHLONEGA — A his wife missing more than 11 years ago has been charged with her murder after authorities following a tip found bones and clothes they believe belonged to the woman.

David Lamar Dowdy. 61, was charged just hours after investigators found the remains they think belonged to his wife, Villa Inez Dowdy, on federal

land in northern Georgia A Georgia Bureau of Investigation analysis will determine if the remains belong to the woman, who was reported missing in Septemher 1993 at the age of 42

#### Robbery suspect nabbed

ATLANTIC CITY - A suspect in a string of deadly jewelry store robberies was cap tured by police at a \$39-a-night motel just one block from police headquarters after officers surrounded his hideout and persuaded him to give un

Christopher DiMeo, 23, surrendered peacefully after officers surrounded the Ascot Motel, where he and his girlfriend had checked in the day before.

He was jailed on a parole viola-tion from New York state, but is suspected in four robberies and three killings, including the deaths of a couple in Fairfield, Conn., authorities said

Authorities believe DiMeo chatted up store employees for as long as 45 minutes before the robberies, saying he was looking for an engagement ring, then pulled out a gun and took merchandise worth hundreds of thousands of dollars altogether. Police had described him as talkative and engaging, with piercing blue eyes.

#### School seeks students

KS LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Virtual School wants to expand. It hopes to add to the 144 online students it taught in its first year by hosting 40 open house programs around Kansas. Students work mostly from

home, staying in touch with teachers by computer. Parents must have regular parent-teacher conferences by phone, in person or e-mail.

#### Police: Baby abused

HOUSTON - A young couple are accused of critically injuring their 6-month-old baby, who police say was sexually as saulted, suffered broken bones from head to toe, and had her tongue nearly severed.

Donna Marie Norman, 19, and her common-law husband, Ivan Castaneda, 21, were jailed without bail on charges of causing injury to

The infant was in critical condition at a hospital. She was transferred there after her parents brought her to another hospital, saying she was suffering from con-

Norman told doctors the infant's tongue was severed when she tried to remove a quarter from the baby's mouth that had been placed there by her 15-month-old sister, prosecutor Kari Allen said. "Obviously, that is a bit far-fetched, Allen told a judge at a hearing.

#### **AMERICAN** ROUNDUP

#### Boys escape icy lake

VT BURLINGTON — Two Champlain while skating near the Burlington shoreline, although they were able to pull themselves out of the 34-degree water and reach shore, according to an eyewitness

Greg Noonan was watching the two boys skate on broad lake ice below his home. The boys skated over some rough ice Noonan said then some thin ice. Then they were

"They dropped like a shot," Noonan said. "They just went through."

Noonan grabbed his phone, called 911 and rushed out of his house to get down to the shore on a route that took him out of view of the lake for an instant. When Noonan saw the boys again, they were back on the ice. Noonan and two neighbors helped the boys to the shore and up to a house.

#### Egg McMuffin rage

MI HOLLAND — A man was fined \$600 and put on probation for throwing an Egg McMuffin at a McDonald's restaurant manager after he said he didn't get what he ordered.

Scott Rodgers, 46, was convicted of misdemeanor assault and bat-



#### Coin defect

Rob Weiss, owner of Old Pueblo Coin Exchange Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., holds one of several Wisco sin quarters he found with unusual markings resembling extra corn leaves on the back. The U.S. Mint is trying to determine how the differences came about.

tery. Besides probation, he was sen-tenced to three days in a work program and a fine and is banned from the McDonald's.

Authorities said Rodgers and his 6-year- old son stopped to get four Egg Mc-Muffins with ham on Oct. 9 but returned to the service window to complain that at least one of the sandwiches had sausage

#### A sticky situation

SHREVEPORT - Add LA this to the many uses of duct tap

Ark-La-Tex Narcotics Force agents and Caddo Parish sheriff's deputies stopped a man at a Greyhound terminal after they said he was acting suspiciously sheriff's spokeswoman Chadwick said.

While being patted down for weapons, Charlie Ross told officers it was a back brace they felt around his chest - not nearly \$55,000 in cash stuck to him with duct tape.
Ross, 50, was not able to produce

a transaction receipt required under federal law for anyone carry-ing more than \$10,000 in cash, Chadwick said. He also would not say where he got the money, so he was booked with money laundering, she said.

g, sile salu. Authorities learned later that Ross was a fugitive from Ouachita

#### Statement cut short

CA SANTA ANA — A retrial in an alleged gang rape got off to a rocky start with the judge cutting off a defense attorney's opening statement after he described the alleged victim as a liar, a drug dealer and a "sex-crazed teenag-

"That's it, we're done for the day," Superior Court Judge Francisco Briseno said, dismissing the jury. He accused lead defense attorney Joseph G. Cavallo of "stepping over the line."

Earlier, prosecutors said Gregory Haidl, 19, son of a former Or ange County assistant sheriff, and two 20-year-old friends "crossed the line between outrageous behavior and criminal conduct," by taking part in the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl and videotaping the assault

#### School locked down

HI HONOLULU — A Leeward Oahu high school was locked down for about an hour because of a fight on campus.

Six students were arrested fol-lowing the brawl just before lunchtime at Nanakuli High School, the Department of Education said. Police said they used pepper

spray to break up the fight involving about 50 students. The school was locked down between 12:15 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

It was the fourth Oahu public school fight in the past week, but it was not clear if the incidents were related, officials said.

#### Back to work

cial session as in 2003.

NV CARSON CITY — The 73rd Nevada Legislature opened with taxes, marijuana, health care and schools among its top issues. Nevada's 42 Assembly members and 201 senators have 120 days to do the state's business. That is, unless they don't finish in time and Gov. Kenny Guinn summons a spe-



Object of my reflection

Jefferson Elementary School fifth-grader Mariah Bokman leaps over a puddle on her way to her safety patrol post in Faribault, Minn.



Cooling off

A horse cools down by rolling in the snow in a pasture east of Eagle, Colo.



Gail Radke of Olathe, Kan., prepares Seattle. Pampered pet a Great Pyrenees, for the show ring at the 70th annual St. Joseph Kennel Club dog show in St. Joseph, Mo. Radke said Seattle loves the grooming and often sleeps through it.



Hanging around Denayah Wilson, 6, of Salina, Kan., plays at the Oakdale School playground in Salina. Denayah's father, Isaac Wilson, had taken a group of children out for an evening of play in the unseasonably warm weather.



Stuck in the muck boug Miller, left, and Aubrey Clark, their covered wagon from the mud in Hattlesburg, Miss. The two are part of the Leaf River Trail Riders, a group of 10 wagons that stopped over in Hattlesburg willie traveling to Jackson, Miss.



Festive attire
Tiffany Tran, 7, wearing a tradition
al Chinese dress, dances during
the Chinese New Year Festival in



Do not try this at home Using his tractor and a chain saw, Ron Schultz of Lanark, Ill., reaches up to trim branches from a tree.

#### A mansion needs these

ARE LITTLE ROCK — Plans for a new governor's master include a reflecting pool, a classical temple and a pyramid-shaped vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom. Radio station KUAR obtained architectural drawings for the 8,700-square-foot complex that would adjoin the current mansion. Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife say they have only 1,000 or so square feet of private living space.

#### Dress code dispute

SHEPHERDSVILLE
Lisa Whiteside began protesting outside Bullitt Central
High School after learning that two
Muslim students who had enrolled
after winter break had been allowed to wear a hijab, which covers the head and neck.

Whiteside said her son, a senior, was given in-school suspension for wearing a white button-down shirt rather than the mandated polostyle shirts.

School board attorney Eric Farris said that school records indicated that the student wasn't disciplined, but received a warning Sept. 1 that his shirt was in violation of the dress code.

Though the dress code also prohibits headwear, Farris said federal protections of such religious garments as hijabs take precedence.

School officials and students said Whiteside's protests attracted the attention of the Ku Klux Klan. She was joined outside the school by other men and women, some of whom were clad in white robes and carried Confederate flags and white-supremacist regalia. Whiteside said she didn't orga-

nize any involvement with the KKK, adding that her concerns were being misconstrued as racially driven.

#### No abuse found

MO KANSAS CITY — A jury acquitted a businessman in his third trial on charges he sexually abused his stepdaughter over a three-way period

a three-year period.
Theodore White, 42, of Lee's
Summit, was cleared of 12 charges, including statutory rape and
statutory sodomy. Jurors deliberated about two hours.

White was convicted in February 1999 of molesting his stepdaughter over three years starting in 1995, when the girl was 10 years old. He fled to Costa Rica while awaiting sentencing but was capured after the case was featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." He was returned to Missouri and sentenced to 50 years in

White was retried after the state Court of Appeals found that prosecutors did not reveal that a detective investigating the allegations had an affair with White's estranged wife.

#### Mall transformation

VESTAL — A former shopping plaza is being transformed into a housing complex for University of Binghamton students. Developers of the \$40 million project said the complex will be able to house 700 students and a few businesses. The Binghamton University Foundation and private developers funding the project expect the complex will be ready for the

fall semester.

#### Teen blames Zoloft

CHARLESTON — A teenager who contends the antidepressant Zoloft turned him into a killer stood in court and acknowledged he shot his grandparents as they slept and set their house on fire.

Christopher Pittman agreed when Judge Danny Pieper read a statement the defense doesn't contest that the then-12-year-old killed his father's parents when he was living with them in rural Chester County in September 2001.

Prosecutors contend Christopher shot Joe and Joy Pittman with a pump-action shotgun because they disciplined him for fighting on a school bus. The 15-year-old is being tried as an adult for murder and could get 30 years to life in prison if convicted.

The defense claims Christopher was under the influence of Zoloft and couldn't tell right from wrong at the time of the slayings. Zoloft maker Pfizer has vigorous-

Zoloft maker Pfizer has vigorously fought cases claiming antidepressants cause violent or suicidal behavior.

#### And laptops for all

HARTPORD — Gov M.
Jodi Real is proposing that
the state spend more than \$15 million to provide laptop computers
for all ninth- and 10th-grade English classrooms. Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg propeed the project because the state
will eventually put the Connecticut
Academic Performance Test online. The tests measure proficienccy in math, reading and science.

#### Teacher goals rewarded

MN LA CRESCENT — Gone are the days when teachers' salaries rose automatically with years of experience, or academic credits. In this dyllic Mississippi River town, teachers get an annual raise only if they set and fulfill performance goals.

The idea of performance pay —

a notion once reviled by most teachers — is getting a warmer reception here.

Teachers are trying hard to prove they're worth the money, from more frequent student testing, to e-mailing parents, to trying out different styles for their students.

#### Smell just too much

FRENCHVILLE — Northern winds have been sending a stench of manure from across the Canadian border, and the people in this St. John Valley town are tired of holding their noses. "It smells like acid or suffur and

it's really strong. The last couple of weeks have been really bad," Frenchville Town Manager Philip Levesque said.

Levesque said the odor comes from a chicken manure composting facility in New Brunswick.

People in the town of about 1,200 say smells from the plant along the St. John River are so bad when the north wind blows outdoor activities are curtailed.

Levesque said complaints to environmental officials have brought no corrective action, so now the town is inviting politicians and government officials from both sides of the St. John River to meet with residents Feb. 16 to air the issue.

Photos and stories from wire services

#### **FACES**



This promotional photo provided by Paramount Network Television shows actress Catherine Bell as Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie in CBS's military law drama "JAG." The show is trying to tackle topics that have come up during the Iraq war.

## 'Definitely intense'

## 'JAG' finds its war stories can hit close to home

11 This war, like every war that

we have fought, changes law ...

We tru to examine that and

put our JAG officer-heroes in

the center of this firestorm of

what now works and what

doesn't work in the legal

system ... Our characters,

though they are not fighting

the war, are fighting to

interpret its effect

on this country.

BY BRIDGET BYRNE The Associated Pres.

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — The sound of gunfire ricochets inside a minaret as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps shoots a wounded, and apparently unarmed, Iraqi. Members of the camera crew remove their earplugs and discuss whether the scene went OK or needs a retake. It

"Death at the Mosque," shooting in this suburb north of Los Angeles, will air as an episode of "JAG," the military law series.

This season war has been featured prominently in several episodes reflecting real events in Iraq.

doesn't.

"How we approach the stories I think probably changes from month to month, not unlike the mood of the country first some enthusiasm, then some doubt some reservations," producer Peter Dunne Our stories concern themselves more with the humane issues, the peace issues rather than the war issues ... because it's going to be the humanity that solves this war, not the weapons."

Local terrain in the hills visible from Dunne's Santa Clarita office provides convincing settings for Iraq as well as Afghani-

The series has always had cooperation from all branches of the armed services and often

films on military bases, including the San Diego Naval Air Station and the Marines' Camp Pendleton nearby "You see all the young families there ... and how much we are like them, but are not suffering the same. We all have spouses, parents, children, whom we expect to find in

the house at night when we get home, but they don't have that," says Dunne. Created by Don Bellisario, the series follows the personal and professional trials of the Judge Advocate General Corps, the lawyers who investigate, prosecute and defend

cases involving Navy and Marine personnel.

The stars of the legal team are Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie, played by Catherine Bell, and Cmdr. Harmon "Harm" Rabb, played by David James Elliott. who's leav-

ing the series at the end of this season. Chris Beetem, recently of daytime's "As The World Turns," has just been signed up as Lt. Gregory Vukovic, a charming but ethically defiant new member of the "JAG eam, who happens to be assigned to the minaret shooting

Bell, whose toddler daughter is with her as she waits in her trailer for her next scene, mentions working at Pendleton on the day last month when 30 Marines and a Navy sailor were killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

"Meeting guys who have lost their friends — or a young woman with a beautiful little 6-month-old baby whose fa-

ther left for the war when the baby was 3 weeks old - you meet these people and, man, this is definitely intense," Bell

"I think after 9/11, things felt different. It felt like we had more of a responsibility in how we represented what was happening, and also that

people were paying closer attention to that, learning more about the military through our show, hopefully," she "I don't think we can afford to be grim all the time, but I think we have to be honest

and I don't think there is anything less entertaining about honest drama, says Dunne The drama was canceled by NBC in 1996 after one season.

then was picked up in January 1997 by CBS. It won't be known until May whether "JAG" will earn an 11th season, but Dunne feels the odds are with them: "I don't think there will ever be a shortage of good drama set in the military - it's one of the four main franchises - along with po-- that have held up, belice work, law and medicine cause they all provide the element of life or death."

**Peter Dunne** 

producer

And explaining the focus on reality-based war stories, Dunne says: "This war, like every war that we have fought. changes law. ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system. ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country.

#### McConaughev to start Daytona 500

Well, all right, all right, all right. Matthew McConaughey has been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 47th annual Daytona

The 35-year-old actor will give the command, "Drivers, start your en-gines," at the Feb. 20 race in Florida, NASCAR announced Monday. "I'm honored and excited to be the

Grand Marshal of this year's race, McConaughey said in a statement. "There is nothing more American than NASCAR and the Daytona

Ashton Kutcher will be the honorary starter of this year's race.



McConaughey

#### Grammy producer honored with star

Producer Pierre Cossette, who initiated the live Grammy Awards television broadcast in 1971, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Cossette, who will mark his 35th anniversary as Grammy producer with Sunday's ceremony, received the 9th star on the walk, in front of the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Bouleyard.

Comedians Bob Newhart and Don Rickles took part in the ceremony Monday conducted by Johnny Grant, chairman of the Walk of Fame Committee and Hollywood's honorary mayor.

#### Director resigns post at film academy

Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar has resigned his post at Spain's Film Academy because of a disagreement over the voting system used to select winners of the Gova Awards, his production

company said. Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in De-cember because the number of voters for the Goya, Spain's version of the Oscars, had been reduced and there was a lack of information about the people casting ballots for the prize, the director's production company, El Deseo, said Monday.



#### 'Sex' star Davis becomes 'soccer mom'

Kristin Davis is moving from the "City" to the suburbs for her next TV project.

Davis, an Emmy nominee last year for the final season of HBO's "Sex and the City," has taken a lead role in ABC's pilot "Soccer Moms." Her signing removes the casting contingency from the project, the showbiz trade papers report.
"Soccer Moms" is a light drama that revolves around

two suburban women who moonlight as private investigators. Don Todd ("Life as We Know It") and Marla Ginsburg ("Highlander") are writing the pilot and executive producing with Jeff Kline ("That Was Then")

#### Cheadle heads to Sudan for 'Nightline'

Don Cheadle, the Oscar-nominated star of "Hotel Rwanda," took on the role of a reporter for a "Nightline" gment on the ethnic conflict in the Sudan

Cheadle reported from the African nation on Wednesday's edition of the late-night ABC news program as a "special correspondent," the network says. The actor and "Nightline" producer Rick Wilkinson accompanied several members of Congress on a recent fact-finding mission to examine what many observers are calling genocide in the country's Darfur region

Rebel groups in the region accuse the Sudanese government of funding Arab militias called Janjaweed to wipe out non-Arab enclaves, a charge the government denies

#### 'Dreams,' 'Contender' swap spots on NBC

NBC has moved its boxing reality series "The Contender" yet again, setting the show on Sunday and moving "American Dreams" out of its three-year home and onto Wednesday nights for the remainder of its season.

The moves are among several changes the network is making to its midseason schedule, including a special pre-view and new premiere date for the comedy "The Office" and an earlier start for the fourth "Law & Order" series. Stories and photos from wire services

#### YOUR MONEY

## Firms follow function: No jobs result from foreign-funds law

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - When Kellogg Co. announced plans to bring back \$1 billion in foreign profits to the United States this year thanks to new corporate tax breaks, it said it would use those funds to do such things as develop new products and explore potential acquisitions. It didn't mention directing that money toward creating jobs

So much for all the hiring the government promised

Commentary

when it gave corporate America a tax holiday this year by allowing companies to repatriate their earnings from abroad at a tax rate of 5.25 percent

rather than at the usual rate of 35 percent. Cereal maker Kellogg surely isn't the only compa-

ny doing with its money as it sees fit, and chances are it won't be the last. U.S. companies do billions of dollars in business

abroad, and the money they earn overseas doesn't have to be taxed by the United States until it is repatriated here. As a result, many companies haven't been quick to bring those profits back home

That is, unless they have a good reason or a big incentive - like the one created as part of the American Jobs Creation Act that was signed into law in Oc

Companies already are talking about the big bucks they plan to repatriate. Johnson & Johnson ex-pects to bring back \$11 billion, while Schering-Plough Corp. estimated its total at \$9.4 billion.

In total, the economists at Goldman Sachs expect around \$300 billion to be repatriated, though estimates from other sources range from as high as \$600 billion to as low as \$100 billion. As for the tax implications, revenues are forecast to rise by \$2.8 billion in fiscal 2005. But over the next nine years, the U.S. Treasury is expected to lose \$6.1 billion, ac cording to congressional estimates when the bill was passed

Lawmakers backing the "homeland reinvest-

tax rates as a way to encourage companies to repatriate their earnings, and by putting extra money into corporate coffers, the thought was that companies would increase operating and investment activity and add jobs to payrolls.

Yet the devil in all this comes in the details. When it comes to the specifics in how the repatriated funds should be used it turns out that what is considered permissible probably won't drive too many upswings in employment at all, and in some cases could even spur layoffs.

In fact, a Morgan Stanley survey that was released late last year found that none of the investment firm's analysts believed that any of the companies they followed would use the repatriated earnings for hiring.

So what can this money be used for? Capital investments, debt repayment, advertising and market-ing all make the OK list issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, as do acquisitions — which could actu-ally hurt hiring because companies that merge tend to slash staff when consolidating their operations.

The government also says the money can be put toward the loosely defined category deemed "financial stabilization." Analysts say that under that banner companies could use repatriated money to cover shortfalls in their pension funding levels.

When using the repatriated funds, companies aren't required to ramp up spending in the permitted areas. That means a company with a \$500 million advertising budget can use repatriated money to cover those costs, which would then free up the \$500 million that it had originally earmarked for advertising to do with as it pleased.

So in a roundabout sort of way, the repatriated earnings can go toward things like executive com-pensation, share buybacks and dividend payments - all of which aren't permitted under the government's repatriation rules.

Good luck to those investors who want to figure out what money is being spent where. Companies don't have to segregate repatriated funds from other



Perhaps in reaction to how a recent price hike was received by small-business owners, San Jose, Calif.-based eBay Inc. announced this week that it would reduce several fees and promised to improve service for some customers of the online auction giant.

## **EBay cuts several** fees as others rise

BY RACHEL KONRAD The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - Less than a month after announcing a price hike that enraged small-business owners, eBay Inc. said it would reduce some fees and promised to improve customer service.

The online auction giant said in a Web posting Sunday it would credit \$15.95 — the cost of a one-month subscription — to small-business owners who operate "eBay Stores" in April. EBay also announced it would reduce the minimum fee for inexpensive

auction items from 30 cents to 25 cents, starting Monday morning.
Bill Cobb, who became president of eBay North America in De-

cember, said in an e-mail to eBay buyers and sellers that the company would provide more pricing details in upcoming weeks. Although the company isn't back-

ing off price hikes announced in mid-January, the missive - posted to a popular eBay community site Sunday morning — struck a conciliatory tone and might repair bruised relations with small-busi ness owners.

... thinking hard "I've been about how we can make sure eBay remains a fun, safe place to trade, and a prosperous home for our many dedicated sellers," Cobb wrote. "We're listening to everything you have to say.

mid-January, eBay warned sellers in a terse e-mail that the monthly subscription fee for people who operate "Basic eBay Stores" would increase from \$9.95 to \$15.95, and the fee for a standard listing of 10 days would double, from 20 cents to 40 cents

The price hikes — which could ent profits for thousands of small-business owners who hawk clothing, electronics and other low-margin commodities on eBay - are still expected to go into effect Feb. 18.

For the past three weeks, eBay sellers have peppered executives with angry e-mails, threatening to increase the prices that buyers nay, close their stores or defect to auctions hosted by Yahoo.com or plucky startups.



Tuesday's Market Summary

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#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Japanese ven (Feb. 10)102.00
South Korean won (Feb. 9)1.000.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.37699
British pound\$1.8556
Canada (Dollar)1.2477
Denmark (Krone)5.50
Egypt (Pound)5.8153
Euro\$1.2775/0.7828
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7997
Hungary (Forint)191.22
Iceland (Krona)61.93
Israel (Shekel)4.3745
Japan (Yen)105.66
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29191
Norway (Krone)
Philippines (Peso)55.02
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.58
Singapore (Dollar)1.6471
South Korea (Won)1026.2
Switzerland (Franc)1.15
Thailand (Baht)38.30
Turkey (New Lira)1.3285
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the

Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-ny), check with your local military bank-ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is

#### PRECIOUS METALS

#### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5
Federal funds market rate2	5
3-month bill2	
30-year bond	3

## ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

#### Tech salary shifts But instead of taking a pay

The Associated Press

U.S. technology industry salaries continued dropping last year, down 2.6 percent, but with a notable niche of gains: Those in the defense and government tech sectors, according to an annual salary survey of tech professionals.

The average tech field salary was \$66,300 last year, \$3,100 less than in 2003, according to the 2004 salary survey by Dice Inc., a New York-based online job recruiting company for tech

professionals.

cut, workers in government and defense tech sectors saw a 2.9 percent gain, to \$66,500 in 2004. The financial industry contin-

ued to pay the most, at an average of \$77,700 yearly.
Silicon Valley and New York

continued to offer the best tech salaries, at \$84,200 and \$76,500 respectively. But Atlanta sunplanted Boston as No. 3 on that list, with an average annual sur-vey of \$75,500, \$200 more than Boston.

The results are from data collected from 23,000 Dice.com users last year.



#### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid-60s. Friday lows in the upper 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Friday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the upper teens to upper 20s. Friday

lows just below zero. France: Mostly cloudy with rainshow ers to the north and partly cloudy to the south. Highs in the 50s. Friday

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the lower 40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the lower 40s Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the lower 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Friday lows in the mid-20s to mid-30s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers to the extreme south of Italy, partly cloudy elsewhere. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s to lower 40s.

Kosovo: Sunny with fog. Highs in the mid-20s. Friday lows four to six degrees below zero to mid single digits.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the lower 40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to mid-

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the mid-50s to lower 60s. Friday lows in the mid-30s to lower 40s, mid-20s

Turkey: Mostly cloudy to the north-west, partly cloudy elsewhere. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s, lower 30s inland. Friday lows in the lower 30s. mid-teens inland.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

### SUN & MOON

#### 6 Full mod 02/24 First qtr 02/16 THE UNITED STATES TODAY

#### LO 74 45 09 44 72 12 10 65 34 HII 84 74 27 62 84 29 29 77 53 38 46 16 43 60 74 23 59 42 TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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39/17

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w Dolhi 72/54



Scheduled to ETS

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



or PCS

#### Horoscope

The Pisces moon is a balm on the forehead of this fast-paced week. So much new energy has come into the mix that we need time to

much new energy nas come mix that we need time to assimilate. Pisces lunar energy is introspective and wise, reminding us that we needn't get snagged in the minutiae or seduced by the details. All we are learning will fall into its proper place.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 10). A greater sense of belonging and

sense of belonging and connection to your fellow man is yours this year. March brings exciting new developments in your social

developments in your social life. Changing something about your work situation in May leads to interesting friends, and through one of them, you may even find romance, right when you thought you weren't is the need.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Communication and community are key. Why not plan a party for the folks on your block? Get to know the people you casually wave hello to on the street. Use this opportunity to bury the hatchet with a neighbor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you've lately found yourself being stonewalled when it comes to signing a document of paramount importance to your career, the situation should lighten up considerably. Power players are in a more agreeable mood.

## **GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Watch for an invitation to travel with friends. This offer could come through your schoolmates or a

menas. I his other could come through your schoolmates or a social group — even your church! It's an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Expand your world and your mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A corporate entity with money to burn is eager to finance your latest project! Watch for subtle opportunities. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket. Call your business partners, and stir the pot a bit. See what bubbles up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reconnect with friends if you've been lying low recently due to your incredibly heetic and exciting life. Invitations and announcements are met with

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

**Peanuts** 

joy all around. Don't be surprised if you're flooded with visitors bearing

## gifts of love. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Presentations and meetings of all sorts go smoothly. You come out

**Holiday Mathis** 

looking knowledgeable and approachable, picking up new clients or even a date! Regarding your mail: Toss it, file it, or deal with it, but don't let it pile up.

#### LIBRA (Sept.

23-0ct. 23). Lucky you!
Many opportunities for
fun and love present
themselves. Say yes to
any sort of group outing,
and you're sure to have a
creatively inspiring and
enlightening time. What better way

#### to beat the winter doldrums? SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Now that the holidays are behind you, family tensions dissipate. Yes, you may actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related. Make time for lazing around the house together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is there a concert, movie or museum exhibit you've been dying to see? Unchain yourself from your desk for a day! Get out there into the thick of things, and commune with your fellow humans. Work can wait; life can't.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An unexpected phone call could bring outstanding financial news! Knowing how hard you drive yourself, this is most likely work-related, though it could also be through an investment or a friend. Take a

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everything just seems a little bit

easier. People are more accessible. The wheels of innovation and productivity spin a little faster. People just seem to get you. You're in the zone. Enjoy this time with someone special

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).
You're in the midst of a huge spind algrowth spurt, becoming the person you've always wanted to be.
Your values are changing, and so is your social circle. Acquaintances come and go; true friends are forever.

Creators Syndicate

I'M LOWERING THE PITCHER'S MOUND... ACCORDING TO THE NEW BASEBALL RULES, THE PITCHER'S MOUND MUST BE LOWERED THIS YEAR...

## Min and Hobbes of Strating of

ILL SPOUT SIMPLISTIC OPINIONS FOR HOURS ON ENRY, RIDICULE ANYONE WHO DISARRESS WITH ME. AND GENERALLY POSTER DWI SWENESS, OF PUBLIC DIALOG!

























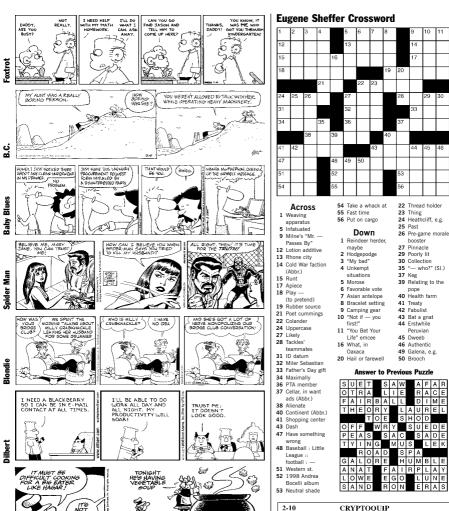














BJGZX MJX RWVVZR "SUGZ

LEZ MFGRUM."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SCRAWNY PUPPY IS BORN IN A STEELWORKS, I RECKON HE MUST BE RUNT-OF-THE-MILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S



#### Other woman should know truth

Dear Abby: My boyfriend of 2½ years, "Neil," broke up with me last August. At the time, I couldn't understand why he suddenly changed so drastically Early in our relationship he had been accepting of my two children, but toward the end he became distant and cold to them. Then he told me he didn't want to raise another man's children and wasn't interested in being a mentor to a teen-

age hoy Neil was also angry that I refused to end my relationship with my best friend, who happens to be a gay man. Neil said there is no place in society for gays, and he didn't want a gay person calling his house

Neil works for a company that he has always had an interest in owning. Last spring, the owner died suddenly and left shares of the business to his widow. "Nancy" and their children Neil told me he intended to borrow

out the youngest son's interest -but his family didn't have the money to loan. About a month after that in the midst of complaining to me about his financial woes, Neil commented, "Maybe I'll get me a rich older woman to take care of me ... someone like Nancy

Over the next few months, I saw him less Dear Abby and less

Little did I know Neil had already manipulated a relationship with her

Abby, Nancy is a very nice, classy per-son. I like the woman. I went to her home for her husband's wake. Should I tell Nancy what Neil is up to, that

he's a conniving loser? I'm afraid if I do she won't believe me. Neil can be very sweet when he wants to be, and I'm sure she hasn't glimpsed his hateful, controlling side. His only

real love is money and power My motive is not spite. I don't want Neil back. I have a new

could never be. I just feel Nancy should know what's ahead. She has a gay teenage son. I'm sure when Neil gets what he wants, that boy's life will be hell.

So, you tell me: Should I talk to Nancy and risk looking like sour granes or let her find out what a lowlife, gold-digging scumbag Neil is for herself?

- Torn in San Diego Dear Torn: Ordinarily, I would tell you to stay out of it. However, because of Nancy's son, I'm reversing myself.

Make a date with Nancy (if she'll see you), and without calling names, tell her about Neil's longtime interest in buying into her business, his cash-flow pr lem and his homophobia. If she has a legal adviser, I'm sure that person will discuss with her the advisability of a prenuptial agree-ment should she decide to remarry. And your conscience will be

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

A drink in :

celebration

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words



TORTOG

TOOCL F

ROAD, HE Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHEN HE ORDERED

ONE FOR THE

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: SNARI BOWER LAVITY EXOTIC Yesterday's Answer What an expensive meal can cost ---A LOT OF CALORIES

#### http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate money from his family and buy boyfriend who is everything Neil **Boyfriend needs to know priorities**

Dear Annie: I faithful- Annie's Mailbox ly read your column every day, and I need your help. I have been dating a wonderful guy for about a year and a half. "George" and I talked about getting married and having a family. Everything was terrific until a few months ago

George informed me that a female friend of his needed a place to stay, and he offered to let her move in with him. He admitted that he once had dated this girl, and she still has feelings for him. This girl has a reputation for being very sleazy and often plays the help less victim in order to attract people

I told George I was NOT OK with her living with him, and we left it at that. Two days ago, I found she has moved into his

house. George claims nothing has or will happen, that they're just friends and that I'm overreacting.

I am sick to my stomach and

feel betrayed that someone I

is ready to live with a loose girl like that. To make matters worse, George always men-tions how great this girl gets along with his mother. I feel like the other woman here. I don't want to end this relationship, but I don't see how I can continue seeing this man

- The Real Other

Woman Dear Other Woman: It's time to clear things up with George. A man who is truly committed to you does not offer to share his living space with an ex-girlfriend, especially after you've asked him not to It shows a disregard for your feelings and a

willingness to be tempted. Tell George if the ex needs a place to live, he should help her find accommodations some where else, but if he insists on nutting her needs above yours. he is not the man for you.

Dear Annie: Lam 14 years

old, and I have a big problem My mother is a serious alcoholic I've talked to my father about it, and we have tried interventions

with extended family and friends, but she will not quit Mom is unemployed, and I think she has an emotional disorder, because she has no interests and spends her time walking our dog all day and complaining about it. I believe this is rubbing off on me. as I am prone to mood-

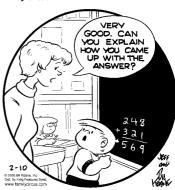
I need your help.

— No Name, No State Dear No Name: Until your mother is ready to make changes, your efforts may not work. You

need to concentrate on yourself right now. Please look into Ala teen, an organization for teenage relatives and friends of alcoholics. The Web site is ala-

teen-al-anon.org, or you can call 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666). Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox/ecomcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Sulte 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### **Family Circus**



"No, I think it was just Divine intervention."

# MEA





Well, I'll be, You've snagged some humongous hat Frank HAHAHAHAHAHA



THE FRONT-RUNNER FOR THIS YEAR'S MICE TRY AWARD

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### AFN TV & Radio

#### Thursday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Soccer: USA men at rinidad and Tobago, World Cup qualifier 

ina (dld).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Golf: Pebble Beach Na-ional Pro-Am, first round.

#### Friday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: ennessee women at Louisiana St. AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.-NBA: L.A. Lak-rs at Detroit. AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-College basketball: tayler at Cincinnati. AFN-Sports, 4:00 a.m.-NBA: Sacramento at

Seattle.
ARN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball:
North Carolina St. at Wake Forest (dld).
Gorzaga at Pepperdine (dlog)
ARN-Sports, 7 p.m.-College
Washington at Oregon (dld).
ARN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Golf: Pebble Bach National Pro-Am, second round.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

#### College basketball

#### AP Men's Top 25 fared

Tuesday.

1. Illinois (24) beat Michigan 57-51. Next:
vs. No. 20 Wisconsin, Saturday.
2. North Carolina (19-2) did not play. Next:
at No. 7 Duke, Wednesday.
3. Kansas (18-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Wednesday.

at No. 7 Dules, Wednerday,
J. Barrass (18-1) divid not play, Next at Kan4, Boston College (20-1) lost to Norte Dame
4, Boston College (20-1) lost to Norte Dame
5, Sentucky (19-3) divid not play, Next
5, Sentucky (19-3) divid not play, Next
6, Work Forest (18-3) divid not play, Next
7, Work Forest (18-3) divid not play, Next
8, Work Forest (18-3) divid not play, Next
10, Work Forest
11, Work Forest
12, Artono (19-3) did not play, Next
11, Work Forest
12, Artono (19-3) did not play, Next
11, Work Forest
12, Artono (19-3) did not play, Next
11, Work Forest
11, Artono (19-3) did not play, Next
11, Work Forest
11, Artono (19-3) did not play, Next
11, Artono (19-4) did not play, Next
12, Artono (19-4) did not play, Next
13, Artono (19-4) did not play, Next
14, Albama (17-4) did not play, Next
16, Politaborgh (16-4) beat S. John's 55-44.

16, Politaborgh (16-4) beat S. John's 55-44.

omet (1/4) did not play. Next: at termescee, Wednesday,
18. Piles and St. John's 55-44.
Next vs. Noter Dame, Saturday,
19. Connecticut (1/5) did not play. Next: vs. Not. North Carolina, Sunday,
No. 2. North Carolina, Sunday,
10va. Wednesday,
21. Cincinnal (1/5) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Thursday,
Xavier, Thursday,
No. 8 Swenowa (1/6) did non--

21. Cincinnati (17-5) did not piay. Next: vs. Xavier, Thursday.
22. Villanova (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Syracuse, Saturday.
23. Texas (15-7) lost to Colorado 88-79. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday. 24. Pacific (18-2) did not play. Next: at Idaho, Thursday. 25. Texas Tech (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Wednesday.

#### Tuesday's men's scores EAST Albright 81, Widener 68 Amhers\*

Albright EL, Widener 68
Ammers 95, League Perce 67
Brockport 18, Buffalo St. 74
Brockport 18, Buffalo St. 74
Brockport 18, Buffalo St. 74
Cools Guard 71, Bubbon 62
Coolly-Sawyer 79, Curry 67
Deckler St. 79, Durny 67
Feliclan 75, Durny 67
Feliclan 67, Nyack-72
Feliclan 67, N rutsdam 78, Utica Tech 71 Roberts Wesleyan 76, Houghton 64 Roger Williams 79, Wentworth Tech 61 Rutgers 62, Seton Hall 61, OT Salem St. 84, Westfield St. 68 Springfield 67, Clark U. 52 St. Anselin 60, America 11 pringfield 67, Clark U. 52 t. Anselm 60, American International 47 t. John Fisher 82, Alfred 64 t. Lawrence 69, Clarkson 67, OT t. Michael's 89, Assumption 84 t. Rose 88, Pace 65 t. Vincent 87, Daemen 80

Tufts 97, Newbury 61
W. New England 77, S., Vermont 66
W. New England 77, S., Vermont 66
W. New England 77, S., Vermont 66
Christopher Newport 81, Nc. Wesleying 69
Carrier-Webb 62, Campbell 82
Gardiner-Webb 64, Campbell 82
Georgia Southeri 85, UNC-Gerestboro 79
Gerestboro 85, Ferrum 68
Johnson C. Smith 83, Verginia 82. 76
Johnson C. Smith 83, Verginia 82. 76
Lovingstone 71, Elizabeth City 82, 70
Mercer 94, Savannah 51, 62
Livingstone 71, Elizabeth City 82, 70
McC. Contral 74, Fayetheville 81, 72
Shaw 78, 51 Pauli 81, 72
Union, Ny, 95, Va. Intermont 70
Union, Tenn. 52, Limbuth 61, 50
Winthony 27, 144
Monthey 21, 147

Rice 82, Rockhurst 63
FAR WEST
Chaminade 92, W. New Mexico 77
Colorado 88, Texas 79
— Billings 105, Hawaii-Colorado 88, Texas 79 Montana St.-Billings 105, Hawaii-Hilo 95 N.M. Highlands 107, Colo.-Colo. Springs 77

#### AP Women's Top 25 fared

Tuesday

1. LSU (21-1) did not play, Next; vs. No. 5

1. 20. (27.3) duf Tuesday
Tues

t Oklahoma, Sunday. 17. Texas (13-7) did not play. Next: vs. Ne-

1.7. Tosas (1.2.7) dil not play, Neett vs. Nest-brasak, Weinerdesk, Julian oli play, Neett vs. South Carolina, Thursday, South Carolina, Thursday, 2.0. Temple (1.8.7) dil not play, Neett vs. Wale Forest, Thursday, 2.0. Temple (1.8.7) dil not play, Neett vs. Annual Professional Carolina (1.8.7) dil not play, Neet at Neet 2000 dil not play, Neett vs. Annual Professional Carolina (1.8.7) dil not play, Neet at Neet 2000 dil not play, Neet vs. Neet at Neet 2000 dil not play, Neet vs. Neet at Neet 2000 dil not play, Neet vs. Neet 2000 dil not play, Neet vs. Neet 2000 dil not play, Neet vs.

#### Tuesday's women's scores

Albany, N.Y. 50, Binghamton 49 Allegheny 61, Fredonia 5t, 52 Assumption 53, St. Michael's 39 Babson 64, Worcester Tech 52 Bentley 59, Franklin Pierce 51 Bowle St. 83, Vigraila Union 78 Brockport 61, Buffalo St. 53 Bryant 90, LeMoyne 86, 20T Colby 68, Newbury 50

olby-Sawyer 66, Curry 52 elaware Valley 61, Drew 52 ndicott 66, E. Nazarene 30 elician 64, Nyack 47 artwick 80, Albany Pharma

Delayare Valley 61, Oree 52
Delayare Valley 61, Oree 52
Felician 64, Nyack 67 Burnary, 55
Felician 64, Nyack 67 Burnary, 55
Felician 64, Nyack 67 Burnary, 55
Felician 64, Nyack 67
Felician 64, Nyack 67
Merrinack 77, 5, New Hampshre 62
Merrinack 77, 5, New Hampshre 62
Merrinack 77, 5, New Hampshre 62
Mount 54, Mary, 47, 64, Centenary, 14, 120
Genestis 45, Cortiand 54, 50
Mount 54, Mary, 47, 64, Centenary, 14, 120
Genestis 46, Cortiand 54, 50
Felician 64, 67
F

Ursius G. S. gryn Mawr de Versius G. S. gryn Mawr de Versius G. S. gryn Mawr de Versius G. Green G. Gr

#### Tennis

#### Open Gaz de France

Open Gaz de France

Weinesday
At Stade Pierre de Coubertin

Purses 555,000 (Tier II)

Surface: Hat-findoor

Frist Stund

Marion Bartoli, France, det. Eleni Danillidot, de Coubertin

Stude Trance, det. Eleni Danillidot, de Coubertin

Marion Bartoli, France, det. Eleni Danillidot, de Coubertin

Stude Trance, det. Eleni Danillidot, de Coubertin

Frist Stund

Vera Doubertin

Frist Stund

Vera Doubertin

Frist Stund

Vera Doubertin

Marion Bartoli, Transis, def. Invita BeneraSeclina Star, Tunisk, def. Havia Perentel

Glaudine Schaul, Luxemboury, 7-6 (d), 7-6

Lighen, Japisobo, Serbia-Montenour, 7-6 (d), 7-6

Lighen, Japisobo, Serbia-Montenour, 7-7-6

Lighen, Japisobo, Serbia-Montenour, 7-7-6

Lighen, Japisobo, Serbia-Montenour, 1-7-6

Lighen, Japisobo, 1-7-6

Lighen, Japiso

Jelena Jankovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def. Emilie Loit, France, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Tatiana Golovin, France, def. Severine Bel-trame, France, 6-2, 7-6 (7). Virginie Razzano, France, def. Anna Smash-nova, Israel, 6-2, 6-3 Doubles First Round Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Di-nara Safina, Russia, def.

nara Safina, Russia, def. Vanessa Henke, Germany, and Camille Pin, France, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Maria Elena Camerin, Italy, and Denisa Chladkova, Czech Republic, def. Caroline Dhenin, France, and Maureen Drake, Canada, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Open 13

Upen 13
Wednesday
At Palain-Reine Marseille
Marseille, France
Purse: \$65,000 (ml. Series)
Sufficient
First Round
Ivo Karloria, der. Wang Yeu-tzuoo.
Taylor Dent, United States, def. Julien Benreinetum, France, 5-3, 5-3, def. Gael Monfilis,
France, 6-3, 6-2, mostili, def. Varien Leiberger
Veryal Lubicide, Grostili, def. Varien Leiberger
France, 6-3, 6-2, mostili, def. Verseu.

ngor Arliceve, wassia, oer, caee koomis, kwa Lubieck, Gordai, def Victor Hanes-cu, Bornialia, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-8. Sebastien the Chunan, France, def. Giuller-mic Chunan, Charles, Cha

#### Golf

#### **PGA Tour statistics**

Through Feb. 6

1. Charles Howell III, 68.74, 2 Tim Herron, 68.77, 3. Tom Herron, 69.72, 9. C, IIII Clark, 69.13, 7, Jason Bohn, 69.22, 8 (tie), Andrew Magee and Craig Stadler, 69.26, 10, Luke Donald, 69.29.

Magne and Crain Stadler, 6226. 10, Luke Donald, 6232. Mring Distance.

1, John Elliott, 1315. 2, Hunter Mahan, 100. 4, Bernard 100. 300. 4, Tiger Woods, 500. 4, Tiger Woods, 700. 4, Tiger Woods, 700

76.5%. Trada Driving
1, Davis Love III, 30.2 Charles Warren, 3.3
1, Hunter Mahan, 59.4 Mark Calcavechia, 70.5, 1ay Williamson, 73.6, John Senden, 74.
(16). Senty Perry and Looy simplellar, 77.9
(16). Senty Perry and Looy simplellar, 77.9
(16). Senty Perry and Looy simplellar, 77.9
(16). Senty Marchan Calcaverage
Putting Average
Putting Average
1.55.0 J. Ben Crane,
1.567.5, Tim Clark, 1.571.6, Paul Goydos,
1.567.2, 7, Peter Lorand, 1.678. 8, Ernie Els,
1.659. phillip Price, 1.688. 10, Chris Riley,
1.690.

HOWEVER, PROACTIVE DAMAGE

8

CONTROL WILL KICK IN AT A CERTAIN TRIGGER POINT.

28,000 SALES INTO THE TOILET, AND THE TRIGGER POINT HASN'T BEEN HIT YET!?!

SCIPT/STIM

1. Tim Clark, Birdle Average

1. Tim Clark, Birdle Average

1. Tim Clark, Birdle Average

1. See 1.

All-Around Ranking All-Around Ranking
1, Davis Love III, 194. 2, Tim Clark, 228. 3, Scott Verplank, 316. 4, Ernie Els, 319. 5, Mark Calcavecchia, 337. 6, Vijay Singh, 338. 7, Tim Herron, 348. 8, Ian Poulter, 355. 9, Jim Furyk, 363. 10, Hunter Mahan, 366.

#### College hockey

#### Tuesday's scores

EAST American International 2, Bentley 2, tie Babson 4, Curry 2 Bowdoin 5, Colby 3 Framingham St. 6, Stonehill 3 Neumann 4, Lebanon Valley 3 Sacred Heart 2, Army 1 W. New England 5, Nichols 5, tie

#### Deals

#### Tuesday's transactions BASEBALL

American League
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with
1B Roberto Petagine on a minor league con-

act. DETROIT TIGERS—Named Javair Gillett DETROIT TIGENS—Named Javair Gillier trength and conditioning coordinator.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with HIP Carlos Silva on a two-year contract.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Jorge Cantu on a one-year contract and DF Tom Goodwin on a minor league con-

and by 1 on Goodwin on a minor reague compart of the Compart of

ne-year contracts.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
BOSTON CELTICS—Traded F Walter Moarty to Phoenix for a 2005 second-round Carty to Phoenix for a 2005 second-round draft pick. CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Waived F Jamai

sampson.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Placed Mike Wilks on the injured list. Activated C Rasho Nester-SAN ANTONIO SPUND—THESE MEDICAL PROPERTY OF THE REPORT OF

on a five-year contract.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Named Bob Sanders and Robert Nunn defensive assistant NEW YORK JETS-Named Jeremy Bates quarterbacks coach and Peo Hamilton wide German Grand WR Jerheme Urban and WR Jason Willis.

SOCCER\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major League Soccer CHICAGO FIRE—Signed D-MF Ivan Guerre

o. COLLEGE
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE—Approved
he return of Bowling Green to the league's
ast Division in all sports effective this fall.
ABILENE CHRISTIAN—Named Ken Collums

offensive coordinator.

BRIGHAM YOUNG—Named Patrick Higgins eceivers and special teams coach.

CONNECTICUT—Named Holly Strauss voleyball coach. eyball coach.

DUKE-Named Marshall Ray men's assis-ant soccer coach.

EAST CAROLINA-Named Rick Smith defen-

ive backs coach.

HIGH POINT—Suspended men's basketball
Danny Gathings indefinitely for a violation

of team rules.

LEBANON VALLEY—Named Robert Rudoloh and Joe Shiner assistant baseball coach-

s.
NORFOLK STATE—Announced the resigna
on of Marty Miller, baseball coach, to conon of Marty Miller, baseball coach, to con-entrate on his duties as acting athletic di-ector. Named Claudell Clark interim base-

rector. Named Claudell Clark interrin was-ball coach.
PURDUE-Named Mike Jacobs graduate as-sistant football coach.
Sistant football coach.
VALPARAISO-Named Stan Rettew foot-ball defensive coordinator.

#### TANK MCNAMARA







Kentucky's Kelenna Azubuike tries to duck under the defense of Florida's Corey Brewer during the first half. Azubuike scored 18 points.

### Kentucky maintains edge over Florida

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The Kentucky-Florida rivalry has been awfully one-sided lately. Kelenna Azubuike scored 18

points and the fifth-ranked Wildcats rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat Florida 69-66 on Tuesday night - Kentucky's eighth straight win over the Gators

"I don't know if you can call it a rivalry," Florida junior Matt Walsh said, "until we win some. I've never beaten Kentucky." The Wildcats (18-2, 9-0 South-

eastern Conference) beat the Gators (14-6, 6-3) for the 10th time in 11 games. Kentucky holds a three-game lead in the SEC East over second-place Florida with seven games remaining.

Kentucky's streak against the Gators has spanned the gamut from the sublime — a 70-55 romp in 2003, when Florida was ranked No. 1 — to the ridiculous — scoring the final 11 points in a three-point win last season.

On Tuesday, it was more of the same. Florida, which routed then-No. 11 Alabama by 31 points on Saturday, looked to be in con trol against Kentucky as well, leading by 11 in the first half and by nine with 16:57 left

But Kentucky scored 13 of the next 15 points to go ahead 47-45.

The Wildcats went ahead for good at 53-52 on Azubuike's three-pointer with 9:52 left and held the lead thanks in good measure to the play of Rajon Rondo. their freshman point guard.

The 6-foot-1 Rondo had 14 noints seven rehounds and four assists. He also helped shut down Anthony Roberson, the SEC's second-leading scorer, in the second half, when he had eight mostly meaningless points after scoring 15 in the first half.

Rondo, a 50 percent free-throw shooter, even went 8-for-10 from



the line. Kentucky, which entered the game shooting 65.8 percent from the line, went 18-for-24 (75 percent) against the Gators.

Rondo "is quick enough to make Roberson work harder, Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "After halftime, he figured out how to guard him."

Kentucky had only three second-half turnovers after committing eight in the first half. Kentucky led 64-54 after a

three-point play by Azubuike with 3:37 left. Florida came within four points with a minute left and had two chances to pull closer, but Walsh and Roberson each missed three-point attempts.

Chuck Hayes, who had 11 points and nine rebounds, made two free throws for Kentucky with 26 seconds left and Moss went 1-for-2 from the line with 10 seconds left, sealing the Wildcats eighth straight win since a home ss to Kansas

No. 18 Pittsburgh 55, St. John's 44: Chevon Troutman had 19 points for the Panthers (16-4, 6-3 Big East), who pulled away after leading 17-15 at halftime.

Daryll Hill had 18 points for St. John's (8-12, 2-8), which upset Pitt 65-62 in New York on Jan. 18. The Red Storm dropped to 0-8 on

Colorado 88, No. 23 Texas 79: Richard Roby scored 22 points and the Buffaloes (12-9, 4-6) withstood a big second-half run to beat Texas for the second time in nine games.

Brad Buckman had 27 points and 21 rebounds for the visiting Longhorns (15-7, 4-5), who have lost four of five and are down to seven scholarship players be-cause of injuries and academics.

## **Brown rescues No. 1 Illinois,** preserving perfect record

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Shots that normally go in for Illinois were bouncing on and off the rim Loose balls the team usually corrals were getting away. Dee Brown even mishandled a ball out of bounds on a fast break

The top-ranked Fighting Illini still couldn't be beat.

Brown scored 16 points and turned three straight steals into baskets, including the go-ahead three-point play, and Luther Head had 14 points to keep Illinois undefeated with a 57-51 victory over Michigan on Tuesday "I'm blown away that people

say you've got to lose to learn a lesson," Brown said. "I think we learned from Iowa. Indiana and this game."

The Illini (24-0, 10-0 Big Ten) overcame a total collapse on offense - going nearly 12 minutes without a field goal - and an eight-point deficit early in the second half to become the nation's only undefeated team. Previously unbeaten Boston College lost 68-65 at Notre Dame just minutes before Illinois finished off the Wolverines

James Augustine, who scored 10 points, said it's only going to get more difficult to avoid a set-

"Everyone is gunning for us," said. "We're going to see this he said. type of effort every game the rest of the way, but we've got a lot of

motivation to keep this thing

Dion Harris had 21 points and seven rebounds for Michigan while Courtney Sims scored 15 points and Chris Hunter had 10 The Wolverines (12-12, 3-7) have lost seven straight, their longest losing streak since the 1999-2000 season

"We gave it all we had," Harris said, "Unfortunately, down the



Illinois guard Luther Head puts the pressure on Michigan guard Dion Harris in the second half. Head scored 14 points to help Illinois win.

stretch we had some costly turnovers, and we didn't make a lot of free throws The Wolverines were 7-for-14

at the line and had eight turn-overs in the second half. Daniel Horton, Michigan's standout point guard, missed his

fifth straight game since being indefinitely suspended following a charge of domestic violence. Horton was scheduled for a pretrial hearing Wednesday morning.

Michigan coach Tommy Amaker was not satisfied with keeping it close against Illinois. "It's still a loss." he said

"We're still disappointed." Brown took over when Michigan was clinging to a 39-35 lead

midway through the second half. His three steals in just more than a minute led to three baskets, including the three-point play that gave Illinois the lead for

good with 7:54 left. "That was

ence-maker in the game, no doubt about it," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said

Illinois, held to its lowest point total this season, proved again it can win without playing its best. Two weeks ago, the Illini over-

came an eight-point deficit in the second half to beat Wisconsin one game after Iowa pushed them to overtime. They scored just 60 in a victory over Indiana on Sunday.

"We've won a couple this year ugly," Brown said. "You just can't

beat everyone by 20 or 15 Michigan surprised the Illini by using much of the shot clock

on most possessions. "Tommy really pulled out all e stops," Weber said. "They

the stops," Weber sa changed their system." Weber was proud of the way his players did what he wanted

them to do in response to Michigan's slowdown tactics 'They adapt within games.

They're coachab games," Weber said. coachable

#### Streak: Falls' threes help fell Eagles

#### STREAK FROM BACK PAGE

But Thomas ensured the Irish (14-6, 6-4) didn't have another meltdown, making four free throws in the final 1:11 to give Notre Dame a 66-59 lead. 'I just tried to smile and have fun out there," he

After Dudley scored inside with 30 seconds left, the Eagles forced a turnover and had a chance to cut the lead to two points.

But Dudley drove the lane and as he passed to Smith, he ran into Falls and was called for the offen-

Every time Notre Dame needed a big basket, Falls hit a three-pointer. He hit two threes six minutes into the second half to give the Irish an 11-point lead, and when BC cut the lead to 54-41 with 8:25 left he hit another. He did it again when the Eagles cut the lead to three with 6:43 left.

"We had that refuse-to-lose mentality tonight." Falls said. Falls was 7-for-12 on three-pointers, a career-best

effort from outside the arc.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he was surprised how open Falls was at times

"I was a little shocked they left him," he said. "But if they want to let him play horse, that's fine."

Chris Quinn and Dennis Latimore each added 10 points for the Irish. Dudley scored 13 of his 16 points in the second

half for BC and had 11 rebounds. It was Notre Dame's first win over a Top 10 team since Feb. 9, 2004, an 80-74 victory over No. 5 IIConn But it was their second win over a ranked team in three games as they beat No. 19 Connecticut

78-74 on Jan. 30, and for the second straight home game students flooded the floor to celebrate. The Eagles were the latest team to arrive at the Joyce Center undefeated and leave with a loss. The most famous Irish win over an unbeaten team occurred in 1974, when UCLA came in 13-0 and on an 88-game winning streak. The Bruins lost when the

Irish outscored the Bill Walton-led Bruins 12-0 over the final 3:32 to win 71-70. The Irish also beat a top-ranked UCLA team that was 14-0 in 1971; beat No. 1 San Francisco (29-0) in 1977; and beat top-ranked DePaul (25-0) in double

overtime in 1980. Skinner said the loss, coming at the start of eight

days off, wasn't all bad. 'It definitely comes at a good time," he said. "It

gives us a chance to get refocused, sit down and start again.

## Stoudemire blocks Kings' path to victory Suns get

SACRAMENTO, Calif. the ball left Brad Miller's hand, Amare Stoudemire's hand met it. One swat later, the Phoenix Suns walked off winners.

Stoudemire's blocked shot with less than a second remaining preserved a 125-123 victory for the Suns over the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday night in a matchun of the Pacific Division's top two

"I rotated out and blocked it perfectly," said Stoudemire, named an All-Star earlier in the day. "It was a great block. There was no contact. As soon as it left his hand, I hit it. It feels good to win one on defense That was a first for me.

After Stoudemire's block, Miller, Chris Webber and Mike Bibby immediately began yelling at off cial Bernie Fryer, calling for goaltending. But several replays showed the block was good. On his way out, Webber kicked the game ball deep into the stands, and it fell just short of reaching the second level of seats. Miller hurled his headband and a sweat-

A short while later in the locker room, Sacramento's Cuttino Moblev went into a tirade against the officials that lasted more than 10 minutes. Mobley said he saw Shawn Marion hold Webber's arm, allowing Stoudemire to be in position to make the block. Steve Nash scored a sea-

son-high 33 points with 17 assists the Suns snapped an eight-game losing streak in Arco Arena to win for the eighth time



in nine games. Nash has passed for 11 or more assists in each of his last seven games. Webber had 24 points, 10 re-

bounds and 12 assists for his third triple-double this season and second in as many games - marking the first time in Sacramento franchise history a player has recorded back-to-back triple-doubles.

Joe Johnson scored nine of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for Phoenix, which won in Sacramento for the first time since April 9.

The Kings were one of only two Western Conference teams the Suns hadn't beaten this season the other is San Antonio.

Sacramento fell six games behind division-leading Phoenix, which is one-half game behind the Spurs for the league's best record.

Cavaliers 104, Raptors 91: At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 23 points, and fellow All-Star LeBron James flirted with his third triple-double in limited action.

James had 15 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds in just 33 minutes. Ilgauskas, named an All-Star reserve earlier in the day, shot 8-for-13 from the field and had six rebounds and three blocked shots.

Robert Traylor added 13 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Cavaliers, who improved to 18-4 at home and tied Detroit for



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash. driving past Sacramento Kings Mike Bibby, had 33 points and 17 assists in the Suns' victory.

first place in the Central Division

Warriors 113, Magic 109: Jason Richardson scored 11 of his 32 points in the final 3:24, and visiting Golden State snapped a 10-game road losing streak.

Derek Fisher had 25 points while Adonal Foyle scored 13 of his season-best 15 in the fourth quarter. The Warriors, who had lost 17 of 19, also snapped an 11-game losing streak in Orlando dating to 1992

Spurs 104, Bobcats 85: At Charlotte, the absence of Tim Duncan couldn't slow San Antonio, which got a big lift from the return of Rasho Nesterovic.

With Duncan out for the first time this season with a sprained ankle. Nesterovic marked his resix-game absence with 15 points and eight rebounds in 22 minutes. Tony Parker had 20 points, Manu Ginobili had 12 and Bruce Bowen added 10 for the Spurs, who improved to an NBA-best 39-10.

Bucks 121. Celtics 97: At Milwaukee. Mike James scored a career-high 28 points, including eight three-pointers, and the Bucks used a 22-0 run late in the second quarter to take a 78-46 halftime lead.

Boston had its three-game winning streak snapped and failed to move above .500 for the first time since Nov. 12.

Grizzlies 108, Timberwolves 96: At Memphis, Lorenzen Wright had 18 points and 12 rebounds, leading six Grizzlies play ers in double figures. The Timberwolves lost their sixth straight and dropped below .500 for the first time this season

Bulls 107, Mavericks 100: At Dallas, Luol Deng had 30 points and 11 rebounds and Eddy Curry added 23 points, including sever-al big baskets in the fourth quar-

The Bulls won for the 23rd time, matching last season's total.

Nuggets 97, Jazz 87: At Denver, Earl Boykins came off the bench to score 20 points, outscoring all five Utah starters by himself, as the Nuggets improved to 5-1 under new Karl

SuperSonics 108, Hornets 91: At Seattle, Ray Allen scored 26 points in his second game since missing two contests with a bad case of the flu. Allen played 36 minutes and shot 11-for-17.

## McCarty from Celts

The Associated Press

PHOENIX - The Phoenix Suns traded for forward Walter McCarty on Tuesday, giving the Boston Celtics a 2005 draft pick in exchange for the nine-year NBA veteran.

The Celtics sweetened the deal with cash to acquire the conditional second-round pick that Phoenix obtained last month from Golden State in a trade for Zarko Cabarkapa.

McCarty averaged 3.7 points and 1.8 rebounds 44 games into his ninth NBA season. He spent his first season with New York and the next 71/2 with Boston, averaging 5.4 points and 2.7 rebounds in 529 games (107 starts).

The Celtics want to play their vounger players and McCarty was unhappy with his role, Bos ton coach Doc Rivers said before the team's game in Milwaukee on Tuesday.

"Walter was very good for me," Rivers said. "He did everything I asked from him. He was honest that he wasn't very happy with his role. I was honest that his role was not going to change because I wanted to see some of the young guys.

The 31-year-old McCarty is the third veteran added by the Suns since they began the season with the league's youngest roster. Phoenix signed Bo Outlaw, 34,

on Nov. 8 and traded for Jim Jackson, 34, on Jan, 21.

#### NBA scoreboard

## **Eastern Conference** Atlantic Division a 23 25 490 21 27 438 22 25 479 21 27 438 20 29 408 19 29 396 Southeast Division 19 29 .396 Division 36 14 .720 28 19 .596 25 23 .521 10 35 .222 10 37 .213

Milwaukee	18	28	.391	91/2				
Western Conference								
Southwest Division								
	w	L	Pct	GB				
San Antonio	39		.796	-				
Dallas		16		7				
	28		.571	11				
Memphis	28	21	.571	11				
New Orleans	8	40	.167	301/2				
Northwest Division								
Seattle			.717	-				
Minnesota			.490	101/2				
Denver			.458	12				
Portland		26	.435					
Utah		33	.327	181/2				
Pacific Division								
Phoenix		11	.780	-				
Sacramento			.667	6				
L.A. Lakers		22	.522	13				
L.A. Clippers			.479	15				
Golden State			.286	241/2				
Tuesday's games								
Cleveland 104, Toronto 91								

Cleveland 104, Torofto \$1 \text{ Golden State 1, Orlando 105 to Golden State 11, Orlando 105 to Golden State 11, Orlando 105 to Milwaukee 121, Boston 97 \text{ Milwaukee 121, Boston 97 \text{ Boston 97 \text{ Milwaukee 121, Boston 97 \text{ Bos

Thursday's games
Atlanta at Orlando
L.A. Lakers at Detroit
Sacramento at Seattle
Friday's games
Philadelphia at Toronto
L.A. Clippers at Washington
Miami at Charlotte LA. Clippers at Washington Miami at Charlotte Houston at Indiana New York at Boston Mercan Service and Charlotte Houston at Cleveland Portland at Memphis Golden State at New Orleans Minnesota at Utah Seattle at Phoenix Dallas at Sacramento

#### Tuesday Cavaliers 104, Raptors 91

TORONTO — Peterson 7-17 2-2 16, Bosh 2-8 2-4 6, Araujo 0-0 1-2 1, Alston 2-4 0-0 5, Rose 7-15 6-8 21, Woods 3-6 1-2 7, Palacio 7-15 0-1 14, Marshall 2-6 0-0 6, Boner 6-10 0-0 13, Aa.Williams 0-2 2-2 2, Totals 36-83

#### Warriors 113, Magic 109

GOLDEN STATE — Richardson 11-22 10-11 12, Dunleavy 5-12 0-1 12, Foyle 6-9 3-7 15, Fish-r/ 7-11 7-7 25, Claxton 3-15 0-0 6, D.Davis 2-5 -0 4, Cabarkapa 4-6 5-6 13, Cheaney 2-4 2-2 1, Naljera 0-0 0-0 0, Flores 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 0-84 27-34 1133. 30 27 22 30-109
Three-Point Goals-Golden State 6-16 (Fisher 4-6, Dunleavy 2-4, Claxton 0-2, Richardson 0-4), Orlando 2-6 (Nelson 2-3, Turkogiu 0-2) Fouled Out-Francis. Rebounds—Golden State 53 (Richardson 11), Orlando 55 (Cato,

Howard 8). Assists—Golden State 24 (Clax ton, Fisher 6), Orlando 20 (Francis 6). Tota Fouls—Golden State 17, Orlando 26 A—12,121. (17,248).

#### Spurs 104, Bobcats 85

SAN ANTONIO — Bowen 4-8 1-2 10, Mas-senburg 0-4 1-2 1, Nesterovic 7-9 1-1 15, Park-er 9-13 1-6 20, Ginobili 4-11 2-2 12, Barry 2-5 1-2 6, Rose 3-9 1-2 7, Udrih 3-5 2-2 8, Horry 1-4 0-0 2, Brown 3-8 7-7 15, Marks 2-4 4-5 8, Totals 38-80 21-31 104.

so-80 21-31 104.

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 2-3 2-2 6, Ely 6-12
0-0 12, Brezec 5-10 4-6 14, Knight 4-10 2-2 10,
Bogans 0-4 0-0 0, Hart 3-10 2-2 9, T.Smith 3-13
3-59, Kapon 6-15 2-2 17, S.Smith 3-8 2-3 8. Totals 32-65 17-22 85.

17 17 21 30- 85 Charlotte 17 17 21 30 – 85 Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 7-15 (Brown 2-3, Ginobill 2-5, Parker 1-1, Bowen 1-2, Barry 1-3, Horry 0-1), Charlotte 4-9 (Kapono 3-6, Hart 1-1, Knight 0-1, SSmith 0-1), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—San Antonio 2-1, Fouled out—None Rebounds—San Antonio 20 (Parker 6), Charlotte 2-1 Hart, Knight 7), Total Foules—San Antonio 18, Charlotte 21, Technicals—Horry, Knight, A. T. 2958. (22,319).

#### Bucks 121, Celtics 97

BOSTON — LaFrentz 5-9 0-0 13, Pierce 2-10 3-67, Blount 3-4 2-28, Allen 4-6 1-29, Pay 10n 3-7 1-27, Davis 4-11 3-411, Banks 4-8 1-2 10, Perkins 1-1 0-0 2, Welsch 5-9 1-3 11, Gugliotta 2-4 0-0 4, Reed 4-6 5-5 13, West 1-3 0-8 2. Totals 38-78 17-26 97 www.turas. 88-78 17-26 97.

MILWAUKEE — Mason 312 5-8 11, Smlth
47-4-5 12, Gadzuric 4-9 2-4 10, Redd 5-10 6-7
17, M Williams 3-5 0-9 7, Van Hron 3-5 2-8,
James 9-15 2-2 28, Pachulla 3-4 2-8, Kukoc
3-4 2-8, Strickland 3-3

Milwaukee 36 42 29 23-121
Three-Point Goals—Boston 415 (Lafrentz
Payton 0-1, West 0-2, Welsch 0-4), Milwaukee 10-19 (James 6-13, Redd 1-2, M.Williams
Lee 10-19 (James 6-13, Redd 1-2, M.Williams
Lee 10-19 (James 10-1), Red 10-10
Lee 10-10 (Lafrenty 10-10)
Lee 10

#### Grizzlies 108. T-wolves 96

rougarezy 1-2, 50 rs. 6 vo. 0 d. 0. 10 falls Minnesota 1 d. 30 2.1 31 – 30 Minnesota 1 d. 30 2.1 31 – 30 Minnesota 1 d. 10 2.1 31 – 30 Minnesota 1 d. 10 2.1 31 – 30 Minnesota 1 d. 10 6). Iotal Fouls-Minnesota 24, Memphis 24. Technicals-Sprewell, Garnett, Williams A-16,169. (18,119).

#### Bulls 107, Mavericks 100

CHICAGO — Deng 12-21 5-6 30, Harringtor 3-4 4-6 10, Curry 10-14 3-4 23, Hinrich 4-12 2-2 12, Duhon 1-4 2-2 5, Chandler 3-8 2-6 8, Gor 2, bunon 1-4 2-2 S, Chandler 3-8 2-6 S, Got lon 4-14 4-4 16, Nocioni 0-1 1-2 I, Reiner 0-0 I-0 0, Griffin 0-1 0-0 0, Platkowski 1-2 0-0 2. To-als 38-81 23-32 107. DALLAS — Howard 6-14 2-4 14, Nowitzki DALLAS — HOWARD 4:14 2-4 14, NOWICEN 8-248-8 27, Dampier 3-45-9 11, Finley 5-16 3-3 16, Terry 8-20 4-425, Booth 0-0 0-0 0, Dev.Har-ris 1-6 0-0 3, Bradley 1-1 0-0 2, Armstrong 0-2-2 2, Henderson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-86 24-30

Dallas 23 27 23 27—10 Three-Point Goals—Chicago 8-15 (Gordor 4-7, Hinrich 2-2, Deng 1-2, Duhon 1-3, Piat kowski 0-1), Dallas 12-30 (Terry 5-11, Finley koviski 0-1), Dallas "7.5.0', cusual 1-3.- Pilit Koviski 0-1), Dallas "7.5.0' (Crery) 5-11. Finley 5-5. Nowitzki 3-5. ever her real thousand 3-3. Football out - Nore 1-3. Assists - Chicago 19 (Hinrich 6), Dallas 19 (Finley, Terry 6). Total Fouls - Chicago 25, Dallas 25. Technicals - Curry. A – 12,224. (19,200).

#### Nuggets 97, Jazz 87

NUSGETS 91, JAZZ 01
VTAH — Boozer 2-80-9, 4 Kirlenko 1-76-6
8. Collins 0-0 1-2 1, Snyder 2-60-9, 6, Lope 0-6
0, Okure 1-39-10 21, Harpfing 5-9 5-11 13,
Bell 7-15, 12-16, Eisley 2-72-3, 6, Borchard 1-5
0-2 Girlicek 3-42-2, 8, Humphites 0-0-0-0
0-1 Girlicek 3-42-2, 8, Humphites 0-0-0-0
0-1 Girlicek 3-42-2, 8, Humphites 0-0-0-0
1 Girlicek 3-42-2, 8, Humphites 0-0-0-0
1 Girlicek 3-10-1, Ambony 8-15-8-25, Cambby 3-9-2-4, 8, Uniter 3-10-3-49, Nene 3-8-2-3, 8, Boykins 3-17-3-32, Russell 1-4-0-0-2, Lohdnson 0-2

Bell 1-3, Harpring 0-1, Lopez 0-1, Kirjlenko 0-2, Eisley 0-2), Denver 2-8 (Boykins 1-1, An-thony 1-3, Russell 0-1, D.Johnson 0-1, Buck-ner 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah ner b-2). Fouled Out.—None. Rebounds—Utah 55 (Okur 10), Denver 63 (Camby 14). A5 51sts—Utah 20 (Eisley 8), Denver 26 (Miller 10). Total Fouls—Utah 27, Denver 25, Techni-cals—Utah Defensive Three Second 2, Den-ver Defensive Three Second 2. A-15,898. (19,099).

0-0 0, White 0-0 0-0 0, Elson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-83 27-36 97.

#### Suns 125, Kings 123

24 36 30 35-125 33 31 30 29-123

#### SuperSonics 108, Hornets 91

NEW ORLEANS — Lynch 1-3 1-2 3, Rogers 6-16 1-1 15, Brown 1-5 6-6 8, Dickau 6-20 5-6 7, J.Smith 5-12 4-6 18, Lacobsen 7-12 6-8 21, La 10, James 4-5 0-0 6, Allen 11-17 3-3 26, Run nour 5-9 3-4 16, Radmanovic 5-9 4-6 18, Daniels 3-4 3-4 9, Fortson 2-3 1-2 5, Collison 1-2 0-0 2, Murray 3-3 0-0 6, Potapenko 2-4 0-0 4, Swift 0-0 1-2 1, Totals 41-70 18-27 108.

New Orleans 22 21 21 27 – 91
Seattle 26 23 30 29 – 108
Three-Point Goals – New Orleans 5-15 (Ron-Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 5-15 (Rog-ers 2-5, LSmith 2-5, Lacobsen 1-1, Nachbar 0-1, Dickau 0-3), Seattle 8-20 (Radmanovic 4-6, Ridnour 3-3, Allent 1-6, Lewis 9-5), Fould Out—None, Rebounds—New Orleans 41 9-18 (Ridnour 3-18), Rebounds—New Orleans 41 9-18 (Ridnour 7), Total Fouls—New Orleans 21, Seattle 9-18 19-18 (Ridnour 7), Total Fouls—New Orleans 21, Seattle 28, Technicals—Nachbar, Seattle Defen-sive Three Second, Fortson. A—15,482 (17,072).

#### TV workers strike halts men's ski race

BY ANDREW DAMPE The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — A race at the Alpine World Championships was postponed Wednesday when Italian TV workers went on strike, a dispute that comes with the Winter Olympics a year away and the IOC to meet this week in Turin.

'We could have certainly done without this," Italian Olympic Committee President Gianni Petrucci said.

Thousands were on their way to the course for the men's giant slalom when word of the strike came an hour before the start.

The race at the worlds - skiing's biggest event after the Olympics — was rescheduled for Thursday, originally an off day for competition. The championships are to end Sunday, and three other races are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Turin Games organizers gener ally have received good marks from the International Olympic Committee after a series of successful test events, but budget shortfalls and this strike could heighten concerns.

"I'm disappointed, angry and frustrated," International Ski Federation general secretary Sarah Lewis said. "Everything was ready to go — 156 athletes and fan clubs had traveled especially



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to be there. The giant slalom is always one of the most exciting

Strikes are common in Italy, although they usually are confined to domestic issues and events. This strike was over contract is-sues and organized by a small Milan union of RAI state TV workers. Some fans in the finish area attacked an RAI truck when they learned about the strike, forcing nolice to sten in.

"As an IOC member I told the Turin organizing committee two years ago that they should try to have a law against strikes during the Olympics, and so far nothing I know has happened," FIS President Gian Franco Kasper.

The Turin organizing committee responded Wednesday by saying it intends to create an arrangement with workers' organizations that stipulates a "trade union truce" during the Games.

Kasper called the protest a "wildcat strike." He said that under Italian law strikes by public services must be anno 24 hours beforehand and this was therefore an "illegal" strike.

U.S. head coach Phil McNichol said "the biggest loser today is ski racing.

"Racing is at an all-time low, we're trying to get a stronger foothold in TV and yet we can't hold a world championships race be-cause of television," McNichol said. "It's extremely disappoint-

Ken Read, head of the Canadian team and a former downhill racer, added: "It's despicable. This is no way to gain sympathy for their cause

While not blamed for the strike, the local organizing committee in Bormio was chastened.

"Consternation, anger, embar-rassment, shame, These are [our] reactions." the committee said in a statement. "Certain things only happen in Italy, and right now it's a day to forget in Bormio

Kasper said he was informed of the strike threat Tuesday night but was unable to assemble a eshift crew of Swiss, German and Austrian TV workers

He said a FIS TV crew would be in place if the strike continued Thursday, and the race might proceed even without TV

"We can carry out a competi-tion with no TV," Kasper said. "But we have to think about our

(TV) spectators. We already don't have many spectators at our races, especially here."

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Romeo Crennel answers questions at a news conference Tuesday when he was introduced as the Browns' first black coach.

#### Crennel now in charge of rebuilding Browns

BY TOM WITHERS The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio - Romeo Crennel walked into the news conference wearing one of his dia-mond-studded Super Bowl rings and a smile. In one hand, he held seven notecards chronicling 35

years of coaching experience. He was missing a big parade and party back in Boston, and Crennel couldn't have cared less There was no place else he wanted to be

The lifelong assistant was finally a head coach. "I got the spotlight, huh," he

said Crennel's long wait ended Tuesday as New England's former defensive coordinator was intro-duced as coach of the Cleveland Browns, who just six years after their expansion return are rebuilding once again.

A coaching odyssey that began in 1970 at Western Kentucky and included stops at Texas Tech, Mississippi, Georgia Tech, New York and New England, has brought the 57-year-old coach back to Cleveland, where he was the defensive coordinator in 2000.

"I've been in this league for a while and I've been somewhat successful as a position coach," said Crennel, who won two Super Bowls with Bill Parcells and three under Bill Belichick. "Now. taking the reins of a team and trying to run a whole program is going to be special. It's a big chal-

lenge, but I think I'm ready The Browns, who have gone a league-worst 30-66 with one playoff appearance since 1999, are counting on Crennel to end six seasons of chaos.

Crennel is the 11th full-time coach in team history and Cleveland's first black coach. He's also the NFL's sixth minority coach. but the only one boasting a Super Bowl ring for each finger of one

Crennel would prefer to be known simply as a coach who

"My skin color is black, but I am a head coach," he said. "I hope that I possess the qualities that are in a head coach with the leadership, organization, and the prioritizing. In many cases I have been the only African-American on a staff or in the neighborhood. The best thing I can do for other minority candidates is be successful and a role model.

Crennel received a five-year, \$11 million contract from the Browns, who are coming off a di sastrous 4-12 season that was scut-tled by major injuries and highlighted by the resignation Butch Davis on Nov. 30.

He wants to mold a team in the image of the Patriots, one made up of tough players of high charac-

"Now that I'm a head coach, if I can get the Cleveland Browns the team — to play the way my de-fenses played with the Patriots, some of them no-name guys, then the Browns will be competitive and a team to be proud of," he said. "Know that it might not happen overnight because it takes time to build a winner.

## **McNabb** was sick on Sunday

PHILADELPHIA - Donovan McNabb was so ill in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl that a Philadelphia Eagles teammate called one play in the huddle, center Hank Fraley told a TV station.

"He fought to the end. He gave it his all," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet in a show aired Monday night. "He could hardly call the plays — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it his all. If you remember back when we played Jacksonville two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

Eagles spokesman Derek Boyko said Tuesday that McNabb could have been feeling sick — he fought a cold earlier in the week.

McNabb was shaky at times in Sunday's game. He passed for 357 yards and three touchdowns, but he also threw three interceptions

The quarterback misfired on several passes early, held the ball too long at other times, and made several poor decisions. One of the best scramblers in the NFL, Mc-Nabb had zero yards rushing on just one carry and was sacked four times.

He struggled in particular in the fourth quarter, getting picked off twice and looking slow in getting the team moving late

"He didn't get a play call in one time," Fraley said. "He mumbled and (receiver) Freddie Mitchell yelled out the play we were trying to bring in. He was puking at the same time, trying to hold it in.'

Mitchell said on Tuesday that McNabb was having complications and "couldn't get it out so I just had to finish the play up."

"It was my first time being the quarterback in the NFL," Mitchell said on a local television station. "It was hard. He kind of tried to get the hand signals to the team, but I knew what he was thinking. I just finished the play

McNabb left Tuesday for Hawaii, where he will start for the NFC in Sunday's Pro Bowl. His agent did not immediately return a phone call Tuesday

#### Titans hire USC coordinator Chow

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Southern California assistant Norm Chow was hired as offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans on Wednesday after helping the Trojans win two consecutive national championships. He was to be introduced at a

morning news conference, Titans spokesman Robbie Bohren told The Associated Press

Chow replaces Mike Heimerdinger, who was hired as the New York Jets' offensive coordinator last month. This is his first job in pro football after 32 seasons at Sports briefs

BYU. Carolina State and USC.

"I'm fired up — it's an exciting opportu-

nity to get into the highest level of football," Chow told the Los Angeles Times. "But my family is very, very sad to leave USC because it's been such a great run." Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher a

USC alumnus, also interviewed assistant head coach George Henshaw and quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson from his own staff.

Sharapova pulls out of Paris tournament PARIS — Wimbledon champi-

on Maria Sharapova pulled out of the Open Gaz de France on Wednesday because of a respiratory illness

'I'm very disappointed I won't be playing in Paris this year, second-seeded Sharapova said in a statement. "I'm not in my best condition and will not be able to perform at my best.

Sharapova was scheduled to play her first match in Paris on Thursday against Tatiana Golovin of France



The Mole Antonelliana dome stands out on the Turin, Italy skyline. One year before the 2006 Turin Olympics, worries about the city's readiness to host the Games have subsided.

## One year before Olympics, host city is right on track BY ANDREW DAMPE about 62 miles from the city, lack of support from state-owned distant snowcapped mountains vis-

BY ANDREW DAMPF The Associated Press

TURIN, Italy igure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palay and a short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the surrounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Win-

one year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing. So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has eased concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase — the first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism
— I'm aware that we still have a
lot of work to do," organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani
said. "But we don't have delays or
emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' frenzied, last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative callm among local organizers and Internation.

al Olympic Committee officials.
"I don't think there is any possible comparison between Athens
and Turin," said Gilbert Felli, the
IOC's executive director for the
IOC's executive director for the
Olympic Games. "The venue for
figure skating is ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are
ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on
track."

Felli spoke after attending last week's opening of the European



Turin 2006 chief organizer Valentino Castellani, left, and Turin 2006 supervisor Mario Pescante talk at a news conference.

Figure Skating Championships at the 8,250-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a billowing sail.

Workers were still painting and tinkering with wires days before the event, but completed the job

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships last month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Italy.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan 22-23 in Pragelato, bob-sled and skeleton events were held Jan. 20-23, and luge events were scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Ceana-Pariol, but were canceled. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiar S agnetif family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olymnics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages, There will be three Olympic villages—one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and two more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems remain in the Alpine zone for fans, media and others.

The organizing committee (TOROC) is encouraging the expansion of existing hotels and asking residents to open up their vacation homes for some of the 1.5 million spectators expected during the games.

There also are tentative plans to house some of TOROC's work force in temporary housing.

"We've done a lot of work. (Accommodation) was a very delicate, difficult matter. In our candidacy, it was one of our weakest points." Castellani said.

points," Castellani said.

In November, Castellani — a former left-leaning mayor of Turin — threatened to resign as local Olympics chief in the face of mounting criticism from Italy's

right-leaning government and a budget shortfall of \$235 million. In the end, Castellani stayed on, although he must now work with a government-appointed supervisor, Mario Pescante, a

pervisor, Mario Pescante, a sports and cultural undersecretary who is also an IOC member. It's been unclear how the two men will share responsibility, but

they've avoided any conflict so far.
"My role is president of the organizing committee. The role of
Mario Pescante, alongside me on
behalf of the government, is to be
a special sort of go-between." Cas-

"I'm here morning until night, he's here part-time," Castellani said in an interview at TOROC's bustling headquarters in a northern Turin neighborhood.

tellani said

The budget gap, now reduced to \$196 million, is due mainly to a

lack of support from state-owned companies. But TOROC and the government say the funds should be secured soon. TOROC's operating budget is

around \$1.5 billion. That doesn't count funds spent by the government on infrastructure projects.

"For someone's personal budget, \$196 million is a stratospheric figure, but it's only [a fraction] of the entire games' cost," Castellani said.

IOC President Jacques Rogge

met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in November in Rome to press for government assistance in financing and promoting the Games.

"At the end of the day, I'm sure the Italian government will do the necessary thing," Felli said. For decades, Turin was a city

For decades, Turin was a city dominated by Fiat, with migrant workers from the south filling the automaker's factories. Now, with Fiat fallen on hard times, the population is dwindling and the games are being used to revitalize depressed areas.

In fact, Italy's former industrial capital is being transformed like no other Winter Games host city. The city currently resembles a giant construction site, with cranes dotting the skyline.

A new subway system, high-speed rail links to Paris and Milan and a new central train station are just some of the major works in progress.

Castellani said his city is using Barcelona — the Spanish site of the 1992 Summer Games that turned itself into one of Europe's cultural capitals — as its model.

"We studied Barcelona very closely. The Olympics enabled Barcelona to rediscover its waterfront. I think the Olympics will enable Turin to rediscover the Alps." Castellani said with a nod to the distant snowcapped mountains visible from his top-floor office.

"Being the city of the Winter Olympics, we won't be just the city of Fiat and the city of factories any-

more, but the city of the Alps." But can Turin also be a city of

"We don't have any sporting culture, at least not for these sports. People don't even go to the stadium to watch soccer here," said Antonio Catabano, a 31-year-old resident of Venaria Reale just outside Turin.

Juventus, one of Europe's most famous soccer clubs, plays most of its home matches inside a half-filled stadium.

"I think the Olympics will be different, it's a one-time opportunity and I think people will make sacrifices," Catabano said as he left an Olympic exhibition set up in one of Turin's main squares, alongside a temporary ice skating rink.

Buoyed by large crowds at the speedskating and figure skating events, Castellani is confident the fans will come out a year from

"We've already sold more than half of the tickets," he said. "The Olympic Games have a special attraction and the Italian team is strong at winter sports."

But Castellani wants to do more than just put on a sporting event — he wants to offer the Olympics a slice of Italian style, culture and cuisine.

"I think that is what our country is loved for," he said. "I hope that the spectators immerse themselves in our offering of culture, shopping, music and museums, good food and fine wines.

"I realize that the core business of the Olympics are the races. But for the spectators, the races are just one part of it all."

AP Sports Writer Stephen Wilson

## Athletes test Olympic venues' readiness

#### Skating, skiing get high marks; track deemed dangerous

BY JO-ANN BARNAS Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — As far as he could tell, everything was going well.

Mark Grimmette of Muskegon, Mich. knew January had been a successful turn-around month for organizers of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. An array of test events had inaugurated several venues without the alarming headlines that seemed to accompany every turn of last summer's Athens Olympics.

A cross-country ski race in the mountain valley of Pragelato had gone off without a hitch. Larger-than-expected crowds flocked to the Palavela skating rink in Turin ("Torino" in Italian) for the European championships in figure skating and short-track speedskating.

Bobsled and skeleton produced successful back-to-back competitions at Cesana—
at the same track where Grimmette, a
two-time Olympic medalist with luge doubles partner Brian Martin, were hoping for
quality racing in last weekend's World

Before it was canceled, that is.

Grimmette was settled in his hotel in the winter tourist destination of Sestriere when he got word last Thursday that the International Luge Federation had canceled the weekend's races because of safety issues concerning the track.

Five crashes involving injuries had occurred during practice last week. The most seriously hurt was a Brazilian luger who suffered head injuries when his sled overturned on a run.

"They have to work on some of the curves," Grimmette said by phone from Sestriere, where he was packing for his return flight to the United States. "It's a safety issue."

Grimmette cited concerns with curves 17-18 — "a lefty with a narrow window of making the curve correctly," he said though the luge federation didn't specify which areas of the highly technical track need to be simplified.

In early January, Grimmette and Martin, who won Olympic silver in 2002 and



Japan's Koshun Tojo slides down the track during a men's skeleton World Cup competition at the Cesana-Pariol track, northern Italy on Jan. 20. Competitions at the track have been cancelled after five crashes occurred during practice runs and the track was deemed unsafe.

bronze in 1998, were the first luge doubles team to christen the Olympic track at the request of the Italians.

"We had six runs," Grimmette said of the ceremonial onening.

"The first two were singles, and the next four were doubles. The track is in fairly decent shape, but it's not an easy track. After the track crew has a chance to work on it we found that out in Nagano and Salt Lake City — over time it becomes easier. We're still discovering where the driving points are and how to use the pressures efficiently, and that can be a difficult process.

"Brian and I were looking forward to racing here, but we understand why they called the event."

With the Games one year away, last weekend's cancellation of the luge World Cup was a black eye Olympic organizers wanted to avoid.

Preparations already had been slowed by construction delays, just as they were in Athens. The hockey arena won't be finished until late summer or early fall. And, just like every Games, transportation is a major concern because of few major highways.

Last week in Sestriere, Grimmette

stayed at a hotel next to a construction site that, when finished, will serve as one of three Olympic Villages. The other two will be in Turin and Bardonecchia "We're seeing the cranes constructing it as we speak," said Grimmette, 34. "It looks like Salt Lake did about a year out. Where we are right now, it's all mountain roads — no highways."

The United States finished second to Germany in the medal count at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics, 35-34. The medal count was an all-time high for the Americans—almost triple their best previous total.

Three years later, the U.S. team is in the midst of its best pre-Olympic season in recent history. Last weekend affirmed that with several outstanding performances, including Bode Miller's downhill sking title at the world championships in Bormio, Italy. It was a first for the United States. Teammate Daron Rahlves finished second.

Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick went 1-2 overall at the world all-around speedsking championships in Moscow, and Jeremy Bloom won his fourth straight World Cup in mogulis in Inawashiro, Japan. Another American, Jeret Peterson, won a World Cup in aerials Saturday in Beijing. Other highlights this season include a victory by woman bobsledders Jean Racine of Waterford and brakeman Vonetta Flowers in last month's World Cup event at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Before he suffered a foot injury in a freak accident at the Olympic track in Italy, men's bobsledder Todd Hays had picked up two World Cup victories in the four-man event this winter.

Women's long-track speedskater Jennifer Rodriguez recently captured the world sprint championships in her sport. In figure skating, Michelle Kwan, Sasha

In Ingure skating, Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Johnny Weir and Tim Goebel remain America's best hopes for a medal in women's and men's singles in Turin. They will compete using the new computerized points-based system instead of the century-old 6.0 scale that spawned the judging controversy in the pairs event at the 2002 Winter Games.

Still unsettled is the makeup of the U.S. men's Olympic hockey team because of the NHL lockout. There will be a team, but no one knows what form it will take — college kids or a roster of NHL veterans. The men's and women's teams will be looking to win gold medals after losing their respective championship games to Canada at the Salt Lake Games.

## U.S. sets ambitious goals for medal haul in Italy the Athens Summer Games (the over. In fact, he said overall pine team that has set a goal overall pine team that has set a goal overall pine team that has set a goal over

BY EDDIE PELLS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Leaders of the U.S. Olympic movement have set easily understood goals for Turin — win the most gold medals and the most medals overall.

"Our athletes don't enter competitions to finish second," U.S. Olympic Committee chief executive Jim Scherr said.

History, however, indicates the goals will be tough to reach.

Competing on home turf in 2002, the Americans finished with 34 medals, breaking their own Winter Olympics record by a staggering 21, but still finishing with one fewer medal than top winner Germany.



Speedskater Shani Davis led a 1-2 U.S. finish in the world championships and could be a contender for an Olympic medal in Turin.

While Scherr refuses to set a specific numerical goal, like the mark of 100 U.S. leaders set for

U.S. won 103), he thinks it will take about 30 medals to lead all countries next year in Italy.

If the United States continues moving forward as it has been, 3 is well within reach. The more daunting trend, however, is the one that shows countries win an average of 47 percent fewer medals in the Olympics that come after those they host.

"We might not get there in Torino. We might. But our goal is still to win," Scherr said.

Unlike many former winter hosts, the United States is a large country with plentiful resources. Steve Roush, the USOC's chief of sport performance, said the United States has not suffered the traditional post-hosting money hang-

USOC funding to the winter sport programs has increased between 2002 and 2006 to around \$35 mil-

Over the next month or so, Roush will begin gauging America's chances by looking at how athletes are doing in a number of world championship events going on around the globe. Specifically, he'll be charting the top eight finishers in each event; the more Americans among those lists, the more optimistic his projections

Early signs show the Americans definitely have the athletes to hit the target.

Skiers Bode Miller and Daron Rahlves are at or near the top in the world — part of a men's alpine team that has set a goal of winning five medals. The American women have Lindsey Kildow and Kristina Koznick, each of whom have won races this year.

wmom nave won races this year:
The United States dominated in newer sports like snowboardinated in newer sports like snowboardinated and freestyle skiting in 2002. Figure skating has produced medals for the U.S. at every Olympics since 1948. Short-track speed skater Apolo Ohno won two medals in Salt Lake and is leading the World Cun standings this season.

Roush said the key to America's success is its ever-growing depth in several sports.

"That's the way to ensure more chances of medaling, because on any given day, anyone can rise up and perform," Roush said. "When you just have one, it's the hope and the prayer. They may not be on that day."

## MLB's silence on steroids lends Canseco credibility

Canseco's book could be true Or only a few

Either way, it's exactly what baseball deserves. Just about everybody else involved in the game tripped over themselves trying to blur the lines between fair and foul for the last 15 years or so. By default, that makes even a convicted criminal and shameless publicity hound like Canseco as reliable a source as any other It's what happens when honest

men keen quiet "If this is all made up, he'll suf-

some serious damages. ex-A's pitcher and one-time teammate Dave Stewart told the San Francisco Chronicle "But if you're an admitted steroid user, believe me, you'd know who uses them

Canseco is one of four stars from the game's supersized era who have either publicly acknowledged using juice or, according to reports, testified to that effect before a grand jury. One of the four Ken Caminiti, is dead. A second. Gary Sheffield, says he took them unwittingly. The third, Jason Giambi, has yet to confirm any of



tails that made the newspapers

when his testimony in the BALCO inves tigation was leaked.

Canseco, on other hand, is more than eager to talk and apparently he's nam-

ing names. The buzz surrounding his version of events is so considerable that his publisher, Harper-Collins, has moved the book's release date up a week, from Feb. 21 to next Monday and the CBS program "60 Minutes." which planned to air a segment on Canseco on Feb. 20, will now broadcast it on Sunday. But they're not the only ones launching pre-emptive strikes.

No excerpts have surfaced yet, but accounts in The Daily News of New York claim Canseco writes that he injected Mark McGwire with steroids when they were teammates in Oakland and

Juan Gonzalez and Rafael Palmeiro how to use muscle-building after drugs moved his operation to Texas in

All three of his former Rangers teammates quickly rejected the al-legations, and McGwire has repeatedly denied using steroids Then again, even after Associated Press columnist Steve Wilstein discovered androstenedione ting in the open on the top shelf of McGwire's locker in 1998 - before baseball banned the steroid pre-cursor - the St. Louis slugger kept insisting that somebody stuck their nose in my locker.

That's not what happened What did happen, though, was this: McGwire publicly acknowledged taking androstenedione the day after a club official was asked for comment. But a day earlier, this was what that club official said: "Use the stuff? He didn't even know how to spell it.

That kind of disinformation has clouded the issue ever since baseballs began flying out of ballparks across the land in alarming numbers. The suits in charge and too many ballplayers, managers and

baseballs were wound too tight. the bats were too hard, the new ballparks were too small about every explanation was trotted out except the most obvious one. That the ballplayers had be-

come too big That, however, was Canseco's - he alleged a few explanation years ago that 80 percent of major leaguers had taken ste-- and he's sticking to it. Without confirming any of the details, he told The New York Times, "I will give a huge press conference, internationally and worldwide when the book comes out. I'll answer any questions

If anybody else who posted the numbers Canseco did — 462 home runs in a big league career from 1985-2001 - promised to tell all, the hysteria would be more real than imagined. But because Canseco's past words and deeds outside the white lines have inspired so little credibility, this latest salvo is easy to shrug off. The incidents he will describe likely will be specific enough to ring true, but Canseco is the worst kind of messenger. On ton

Spring training camps open in

a few days, guaranteeing some uncomfortable moments players and club executives who will have to answer some tough questions. But it's high time for them to confront the same questions the game's fans have been wrestling with for a while.

How much of the offensive barrage we all witnessed was the natural progression of athletes working smarter and harder, and how much was simply better hitting through chemistry? And how do we compare the legitimacy of the era that just ended with those that have gone before it? Those aren't just philosophical queries, either, Before you look up, Barry Bonds will be closing in on Hank Aaron's career mark of 755 home runs and baseball's higher-ups will have to decide how to mark the occasion, or whether to mark it at all

The only thing we can be sure of is that Canseco won't make the short list of people commissioner Bud Selig seeks out for advice.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him

## Nationals' assembly line working overtime

By JOSEPH WHITE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In a temporary office in the nation's capital, the president of the Washington Nationals is trying to complete a to-do list 65 items long, a task that has become more maddening by the red tape he

seems to encounter at every turn.
"What will be a miracle," Tony Tavares said, "is if I make it to Opening Day without assaulting a lawyer."

In more permanent accommodations in Viera. Fla., the interim general manager has spent three months trying to improve a last-place team with a limited budget.

"You never have enough time," Jim Bowden said. "I didn't start until Nov. 2. so you're behind a little bit, but we're very excited

Ready or not, the Nationals are about to take the field

Pitchers and catchers report to Viera on Tuesday, followed five days later by the rest of the roster. The ongoing logistics scramble in Washington - further compli cated by a lost week in December when city politics almost derailed the move will soon lead a parallel existence with the pop of mitts and other baseball sounds.

"I kept having faith it would happen Bowden said. "Even when we had that little setback in December, I still thought at the end of the day that everyone would come together and do the right thing, and the right thing finally happened."

While the spring training complex is the same as is much of the roster, there's a whole lot new for the former Montreal Expos. The era of living in limbo is finally over now that baseball has decided on a permanent home for the franchise, and a modest increase in the payroll has allowed Bowden to reverse the outward talent flow of the last few years.

"It's weird," closer Chad Cordero said "because every time I turn on ESPN, I see the bottom line, and I see they just signed Vinny Castilla or Esteban Loaiza. It's definitely cool to see how they're trying to get all those guys. It'll be fun to go down to spring training and see all the new faces and put on the new uniforms and stuff.



Washington Nationals shortstop Cristian Guzman puts on his new uniform during a news conference on Feb. 2 in Washington. Guzman is one of the key signings in the lineup being assembled by interim general manager Jim Bowden for Opening Day.

Working with an absolute upper limit of \$50 million - up from last year's \$43 million Opening Day roster but still low on the major league totem pole - Bowden couldn't re-sign free agent Tony Batista, but he was able to snag third baseman Castilla and shortstop Cristian Guzman in free agency and work a trade for outfielder Jose Guillen

The newcomers join top returnees such as outfielder Brad Wilkerson, second baseman Jose Vidro, first baseman Nick Johnson and catcher Brian Schneider, giving manager Frank Robinson the makings of a respectable lineup, though without much depth if someone gets hurt

Pitching is another story. The starting rotation has more than its share of hard-luck stories. Tomo Ohka had his arm broken by a line drive last year. Zach Day broke a finger trying to bunt. Tony Armas Jr. spent the season recovering from rotator cuff sur-

Livan Hernandez is the ace of the staff, a title deserved just for making it through the entire season without a major calamity.

Bowden tried to upgrade by pursuing oung pitchers Odalis Perez and Jaret Vright. "And then all of a sudden the market just blew up in our faces," Bowden "And there's nothing we could do about it

So he ended up with Loaiza, gambling that the inconsistent right-hander can regain the form that produced 21 victories for the Chicago White Sox two years ago.

"We knew we couldn't afford guys who made \$5-15 million, so we concentrated on guys we could afford to fill all the holes, Bowden said. "I said when I took the job that we wanted to improve at right field, shortstop and third base. With Guillen,

Guzman and Castilla. I think we did that Obviously we wanted to get a starting pitcher capable of 180 innings. At the end of the day we got a guy that's been a two-time All-Star that won 20 games.

Throughout the negotiations, Bowden found Washington to be his best selling point. If the team still was in Montreal even with a \$50 million budget - he said he wouldn't have enjoyed the same suc-

"You don't have Cristian Guzman if it isn't for Washington, D.C.," Bowden said. "He signed here because he and his agent had the vision to know what this market was going to be, and they wanted to be a part of it. We don't make the Jose Guillen trade if it isn't for Washington, D.C.

Now the players have to hope D.C. will be ready for them in April. The good news is that RFK Stadium is on pace for its overhaul to be completed on time to host an exhibition game April 3 and the home opener 12 days later. The bad news is that the team doesn't yet have a television deal, a mascot - and a bunch of other things on Tayares' 65-item list

"There's a litany of issues." Tavares said. "Locking down our budgets for game-day staff, deciding on how many ushers, how many ticket-takers, how many security guards. Who's the cleaning contract? Who's the parking contract? The concession deal? It's tedious kind of things, like getting our tax ID locally."

Executive vice president Kevin Uhlich's duties run the gamut. He is drawing up a promotions schedule so kids will know when they can run the bases, but he's also working to help select an architect for the new ballpark that needs to be built by 2008. He's doing all this in a makeshift workplace because the team's new offices inside RFK won't be ready until the end of March at the earliest.

Still there is confidence that everything on Tavares' list will get done in time for Washington's first baseball season since 1971 - even if a few of the less important matters run a little behind schedule

"I'm sure we're going to find stuff that will fall into that category," Uhlich said. "We're looking at it globally, but right now the focus is on that first weekend.

## San Francisco to host All-Star Game in 2007

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig will be in San Francisco on Wednesday to announce that the Giants will host the 2007 All-Star Game

It was widely reported during the World Series in October that the Giants would get the game but Selig now will make it official

This will be the city's first time staging baseball's midsummer classic since 1984, and a great the Giants' heautiful waterfront stadium that opened in 2000. The club has topped 3 million in attendance all five seasons since the ballpark opened - thanks in large part to the popularity of slugger Barry Bonds.

The Giants had no official announcement Tuesday, but have acknowledged in the past they had long been considered a favorite to host the game.

The last time the city had the



All-Star Game was July 10, 1984, at Candlestick Park where the National League won 3-1.

This will be the first time in nore than 40 years that the All-Star Game won't alternate between the American and National Leagues Detroit hosts next summer's game, then Pittsburgh has will host two straight games.

#### Schilling could be ready for Opening Day

BOSTON - Curt Schilling might be ready for Opening Day

The Boston Red Sox ace who underwent ankle surgery after the team won the World Series is throwing again, and manager Terry Francona wouldn't be shocked if Schilling starts against ing star in the season opener April 3 in New York.

"It gives him a target date to shoot for," Francona said Tues-day. "It's the Yankees. It's Randy Johnson. That revs him up even

more

Schilling told The Associated Press on Tuesday that pitching the opener was still his goal.

"I'm feeling very good about

things now," he said.
On Dec. 14, he told WEEI-AM radio that his rehabilitation was taking longer than he had expect-ed and said. "As of right now, the timetable looks something later

than Opening Day."
General Manager Theo Epstein received an encouraging update Tuesday from one of the team's trainers

"The club is very happy with the progress he's made," Epstein said. "It's premature [to say] he'll be ready by Opening Day, but we like the progress he made from the surgery and his throwing program's going well."

Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 17. Schilling, who has spent most of the offseason at his home in Arizona, said he began throwing "a while ago." but emphasized that it's too early for him to make a solid prediction about when he can pitch in the

#### Martinez reports early to spring training

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. Pedro Martinez started his first season with the New York Mets earlier than expected.

Martinez surprised the team Tuesday by showing up early for spring training, 10 days before the first scheduled workout for pitchers, catchers and players coming off injuries. He had said he would arrive on the voluntary reporting date (Feb. 17), but later decided to make the short trip from his home in Miami

'I'm just here to work out." Martinez said. "I need to continue working just like I was doing in the Dominican. And there's no better place to do it since I live so

The 33-year-old Martinez lifted weights and played long toss, and plans to throw off a mound on Wednesday.

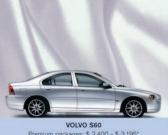
The former Red Sox ace signed a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York in December and wanted to set an example for his new teammates. This offseas Mets General Manager Omar Minaya also added free-agent center fielder Carlos Beltran and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, Martinez's former teammate in

#### Silva, Twins agree to contract MINNEAPOLIS - Right-hand-

er Carlos Silva and the Minnesota Twins avoided arbitration by agreeing Tuesday to a two-year contract that guarantees him \$5.05 million.

Silva went 14-8 with a 4.21 ERA in 203 innings last year for the three-time AL Central champions. He threw one shutout and allowed 255 hits with 35 walks and 76 strikeouts. He finished fourth in the AL in fewest walks per nine innings (1.6) and pitched six or more innings in 24 of his 33 starts.

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## **SPORTS**



Browns make it official, put Crennel in charge of rebuilding. Page 27

## **Notre Dame ends BC streak**

Eagles suffer same fate as UCLA. others in South Bend

> By TOM COVNE The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Boston College found out what top-ranked teams UCLA. DePaul and San Francisco learned in years past - Notre Dame isn't where undefeated teams want to play.

Colin Falls matched his career high with 23 points, and Chris Thomas added 19 points and nine assists as the Irish ended the fourth-ranked Eagles' 20-game winning streak and handed them their first loss of the season, 68-65 Tuesday night.

Boston College junior Craig Smith said the loss had nothing to do with the pressure of trying to stay undefeated. The key was the Irish caught the Eagles a little off guard with their zone defense, then shot 51 percent themselves

"They got us out of our offense because of their defense and due to the fact they also were hitting shots," he said. "When you're home, it's like that." Smith, BC's leading scorer at 18.7 points a game, missed his final eight shots and fin-

ished 4-for-14 for nine points "We just made mistakes that allowed Notre Dame opportunities that we normally don't make. We have to learn from that," BC coach Al Skinner said. "The thing I'm most concerned about was our lapses on defense. We knew what we wanted to do, but at times we were just zoning out."

Skinner said the loss was disappointing, but it won't prevent the Eagles from accomplishing their goals.

"Being unbeaten, that's nice and all, but that's not our goal," he said. "Our goal is to be as successful as we can in the league. The fact of the matter is, we're in first

The Eagles (20-1, 9-1 Big East), playing their first game this season on national TV,



Boston College guard Sean Marshall (23) and Nate Doornekamp (13) watch from the bench as time runs out on their 20-game winning streak in South Bend. Ind. Notre Dame, which has a history of ending winning streaks at home, upset the No. 4 Eagles 68-65.

and top-ranked Illinois (24-0) were the only unbeaten teams left in Division I. The Illini are alone now, surviving a scare before beating Michigan 57-51 Tuesday

night Louis Hinnant, who had 13 points, said the Eagles knew it would be tough to go undefeated in the Big East, even if they were the first team in conference history to start the season 20-0.

"We feel we don't have anything to hang our heads over." he said. "We just have to try to keep getting victories."

The Irish squandered an 11-point lead in

the final six minutes at No. 8 Syracuse on Saturday before losing 60-57. They held a 62-54 lead over Boston College, but the Eagles closed to 62-59 as Jared Dudley made two free throws and then converted a three-point play.

SEE STREAK ON PAGE 25



Nash scores season-high 33 points, but Suns' victory isn't sealed until Stoudemire blocks Kings' final shot Page 26



Turin has picked up the pace. now on track for Winter Games in one vear

Page 28



**Teammate says** McNabb was so ill in fourth quarter of Super Bowl that he couldn't call a play in the huddle Page 27